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CHERNYSHEV, MOROZOV INTERVIEWED ON ARMS CONTROL

LD221633 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1425 GMT 22 May 87

[Interview with TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev and Soviet military commentator Vasiliy Morozov from the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY by unidentified presenter on the "People and the World" program; Soviet commentators speak in Russian, fading into superimposed Czech translation; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] Two important Soviet commentators, experts on the issues of disarmament and Soviet-U.S. relations, visited Czechoslovakia recently. We have made use of their presence and in this program we will acquaint you with their views on the most important problems of our times, the tackling of which is in the interest of all humankind.

You will hear TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev and APN military commentaor Vasiliy Morozov.

[Presenter] The year 1987 is rightly described as a year in which significant progress could be made in disarmament talks. After the latest Soviet and U.S. proposals, the course of the Geneva talks on nuclear and space weapons is awaited with special interest.

Vladimir Chernyshev answers the questions of whether there is a real hope to conclude specific disarmament agreements:

[Chernyshev] After a whole series of initiatives on the part of the USSR, in particular putting forward stimulating proposals on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe, it is clear to the entire world that an agreement on these issues could be concluded in Geneva very soon. Unfortunately, recently some events took place in the United States and in some Western European capitals that show that dreams do not always come true. Therefore, I would not dare say that some progress could be expected at the Geneva talks in the near future.

[Presenter] Why do you think this?

[Chernyshev] In the beginning, when Washington became acquainted with the Soviet initiatives, it said yes, the zero option is the U.S. proposal from 1981 and is, naturally, acceptable to the United States. However, on 5 May, in connection with the beginning of the eighth round of the Geneva talks, President Reagan issued a written appeal that contained a number of points raising concerns.

What is the point causing the most concern? If we take into consideration that the standpoints of the two sides have the most in common in regard to the medium-range missiles issue it is obvious that this issue should be tackled first. The President, however, changed the priorities. In his guidelines to the U.S. delegation he told it to demand in Geneva above all agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons by 50 percent. He put the issue of medium-range missiles down to second place. Unfortunately, in the area of strategic offensive weapons, which is closely related to the problem of how to prevent the militarization of outer space, the standpoints of the two sides diverge widely. Therefore, we can hardly expect a solution to all these problems in the nearest future. It would have been possible to come to an agreement on the issue of medium-range missiles quite quickly. The change of priorities, however, creates doubts as to whether Washington wishes to come to an agreement on medium-range missiles in the nearest future.

[Presenter] The standpoint of the U.S. side, then, contains a number of disconcerting points. You spoke about the fact that the U.S. delegation in Geneva put forward a new proposal for an agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons by 50 percent. This proposal means that the U.S. side does not respect the agreements that were arrived at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Reykjavik. What is your opinion?

[Chernyshev] First, in Reykjavik it was agreed that during the course of 5 years the number of strategic offensive weapons will be reduced by 50 percent. Now the U.S. side, instead of 5 years is proposing 7, thus prolonging the set deadline.

As far as the agreement on the complete liquidation of strategic offensive weapons which was also discussed in Reykjavik is concerned -- and a period was also being stated of 10 years -- nothing at all is being said on this subject from the U.S. side. In Washington they are announcing that they would be willing to consider only the question of the destruction of ballistic missiles but not the liquidation of all strategic offensive weapons. According to the open admission of Pentagon representatives, this means that the United States would like to return to the fifties when they had a great advantage over the Soviet Union.

If we note the concrete figures, their strategic Air Force, which would under such conditions of reduction remain preserved for the United States, would be almost four times larger than the Soviet strategic Air Force.

[Presenter] Differences also exist in the question of the liquidation of nuclear missiles in Europe. The United States does not want to agree to the Soviet proposal on the so-called second zero option, according to which Soviet operational and tactical missiles in Europe should be completely eliminated. They only propose that the number of Soviet missiles should be reduced, which would give the U.S. side the ability to install this type of weapon in Europe. It would no longer be a matter eliminating nuclear weapons, but on the contrary, a possibility for the United States to introduce a new type of nuclear weapons into Europe. How they actually envisages this modernization is a question for Vladimir Chenyshev.

[Chernyshev] They just want to reconstruct their own weapons. So, for example, they want to reconstruct the ballistic Pershing-2 missiles into operational and tactical shorter-range missiles. They do not even want to eliminate cruise missiles but instead intend to either change the nuclear warheads for conventional ones, or move these missiles to military ships. This means that here the U.S. side is deviating from what had been agreed to in Reykjavik. It does not wish to destroy its own medium-range missiles but to turn them into a different class of weapons. This also gives us concern and gives rise to the suspicion of whether those in Washington really want the zero option.

[Presenter] Conventional weapons: This is a favorite specter of the West, which they have been using for a number of years to impede the development toward a world free of nuclear weapons. Everytime there is a possibility that Soviet peace proposals might be accepted there appears on the stage again and again the alleged Soviet superiority in this kind of arms. What should one visualize under this term? Perhaps we all will recall that this division of arms appeared in the fifties when nuclear and other types of weapons, described collectively as weapons of mass destruction, began to make their mark on the armories of armed forces. Since then the term conventional weapons has begun to be used in contrast with nuclear, chemical, biological, and other types of weapons. Let's look, however, at the real situation on both sides.

Vasiliy Morozov, a military commentator of the Soviet NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, a holder of the USSR State Prize, has this to say:

[Morozov] The facts say that there now exists an approximate balance in conventional wapons between the Warsaw Pact and the NATO states. This is confirmed in particular by the annual reports of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies, issued over a number of years, including 1986. We will find a very interesting statement, which I will permit myself to cite: The overall balance of forces equipped with conventional weapons has been up to now such as to make an attack in a general sense a very risky enterprise for any side, because no side has at its disposal a sufficiently distinctive strength that would guarantee it a victory. But the preceeding statement is after all the main criterium for judging the correlation between the forces of the two sides.

In one of the 1986 publications of the Brookings Institution from the United States, it is said directly that the correlation in conventional weapons is not only in a close proximity to parity but that it is even advantageous to the West.

[Presenter] There is therefore no specter. When we take into account not an arbitrarily singled out, partial but on the contrary, a comprehensive assessment, we can only reach one conclusion: The combat capability of the NATO countries is approximately equal to the combat capabilities of the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces. But the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are not content with this state of affairs. Let us only recall the Budapest meeting of the Warsaw Pact member states' Political Consultative Committee. It took place in the city on the Danube on 10 and 11 June last year. From the meeting there emerged a proposal to broaden the question of the reduction of the number of the armed forces and arms in central Europe to cover the large area between the Atlantic and the Urals. This would mean to limit the number of troops on both sides by almost 1 million men. This proposal was directed to the city that lies only several dozens of kilometers away from Budapest against the current of the Danube, to Vienna, where talks on the reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe are taking place. But a year has almost gone by and there has been no reply. We have once again asked Vasiliy Morozov to assess these talks:

[Morozov] What could one say in this instance? These talks have been dragging on for the past 14 years and Sleeping Beauty is still asleep. Our partners in the talks have been erecting a great many obstacles that either complicate the possibility of reaching a solution or make it impossible. We can state that in the West they either are falsifying specific figures or are concealing them. For instance, the NATO and Warsaw Pact states possess approximately the same number of armed forces. This has been confirmed by the well-known figure Paul Nitze, the special adviser to the U.S. President and secretary of state on arms problems, who declared on this subject: As regards the numerical state of the armed forces, this is not an area in which the Soviet Union or the Warsaw Pact states enjoy superiority. The number of troops on the NATO side is approximately the same as on the Warsaw Pact side. And the Pentagon publication Soviet Military Power of which six issues have already been published, says: The numerical strength of the NATO Armed Forces amounts to between 5 and 6 million men and of the Warsaw Pact 4.9 million. Where is the superiority here? These are concrete facts.

[Presenter] But let us return to the problem we spoke about at the begining. Talks are also taking place in Geneva. It appears that the Soviet-U.S. talks in the area of eliminating medium-range missiles have made the most progress. The U.S. attitude is still evasive.

While here, for a change, they insist on the alleged Soviet advantage in operational and tactical missiles, most recently they have started hiding behind their West European allies. They say that first they must agree with the withdrawal of medium-range missiles. This standpoint is all the more interesting because on many other questions the United States has not even remembered to consider West Europe. Let us recall, for example, the unilateral U.S. decision on the plan for the militarization of space, or the economic limitation on the imports of European agricultural products. Let us return to the question of medium-range missiles at the Geneva talks. We asked Vasiliy Morozov what concrete figures tell us.

[Morozov] First, the United States now has 640 aircraft carrying medium-range nuclear weapons -- that is, exceeding the distance of 1,000 km -- on the European Continent. Included in this are 400 F-111, F-4, and F-16 jet bombers which are capable of making a nuclear strike anywhere on the territories of European socialist countries and on a considerable part of the territory of the Soviet Union. This is one figure. Apart from this, in order to undertake military operations in the sphere of NATO influence, the United States has two naval fleets, one in the Mediterranean Sea and one in the Atlantic Ocean, the 6th and 2d respectively, which have among them seven multiple use aircraft carriers. About 300 nuclear weapon deck launchers are sited on these aircraft. This is an undeniable fact.

[Presenter] Vasiliy Morozov went on to evaluate the technical parameters of these means. The action radius allows these vessels to make strikes deep into the territory of the Soviet Union. Apart from this, Tomahawk nuclear missiles with a 2,600 km range are gradually being added to the armory of the surface vessels and nuclear submarines of both these fleets. Thus, the commander in chief of NATO in Europe has at his disposal several hundred battle warheads on strategic missiles sited on U.S. submarines. Let us, however, once again turn to Vasiliy Morozov.

[Morozov] Second, in the Armed Forces of the European NATO states -- I am thinking of states such as the FRG, Italy, Turkey, Belgium, the Netherlands -- there exist over 200 aircraft carrying nuclear weapons of the tactical strike air force. In the FRG there are 72 launch ramps for Pershing-1A nuclear ballistic missiles with a range of 740 km, over 100 launch ramps of which a part is in the armory of the U.S. ground forces in Europe with a range up to 130 km. [sentence as heard] This is the second point.

Third, the U.S. ground forces in Europe, as well as the European NATO states have at their disposal over 2,000 nuclear artillery 203.0 and 155 mm shells. The range of these weapons is up to 30 km. For U.S. forces stationed in Europe, and for the forces of their European allies, the United States concentrate over 7,000 nuclear weapons on the territory of Western Europe, and they have set up more than 150 storage sites for such weapons.

[Presenter] Another factor that must be taken into account is the fact that French and British nuclear means are also sited in Europe. The British standpoint on the question of medium-range missiles is nuclear. Formally, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government has expressed itself in favor of a possible agreement on these weapons. On the other hand, it makes its agreement subordinate to other conditions, such as the installation of other weapons if medium-range missiles are withdrawn. As the influential British daily FINANCIAL TIMES wrote recently, it seems to be considerably irrational and politically difficult to agree to proposals for a treaty on the removal of one sort of weapon by replacing it with others. What is the true military strength of Britain?

[Morozov] Great Britain has four nuclear submarines, each one armed with 16 launchers for Polaris A3T ballistic missiles. Each of these missiles has six battle warheads and a range of up to 4,000 km. Great Britain also has about 200 tactical aircraft carrying nuclear weapons. It is also known that MIRV nuclear warheads are being developed for ballistic missiles fired from the Trident II submarines, which should be made available by the United States at the beginning of the nineties, is continuing. Four new submarines the British are building should be equipped with these missiles, which have 10 nuclear warheads each and each will have 16 launchers.

[Presenter] In contrast, the French standpoint toward the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles from Europe is clear. The country of the Gallic cockerel does not agree with their withdrawal. The political representatives of this country are prisoners of the old doctrine of nuclear deterrence, which they say reliably defends France and Western Europe from the Soviet threat. As we have already seen from concrete facts, however, there is no such threat. Both military groups have the same military strength and the Soviet Union is simply trying to reduce the growing spiral of senseless arming. Proof of the negative stand by France was the recent visit by Premier Chirac to Moscow. In connection with this visit, the paper LES ECHOS said that with regard to the fact that the presidential elections will only be taking place in a year's time, France has enough time and can take time to think. What is it they want to wait for in Paris? France has almost 3 million unemployed and the billions of francs being spent on arms continue to grow.

[Morozov] The French Army has in its arsenal six submarines, which means a total of 96 launchers. These submarines are armed with either M20 ballistic missiles, with a range of about 4,500 km, or with M4 missiles, with a range of slightly more than 3,500 km. They have MIRV warheads, however. Each such missile has six warheads. France also has at its disposal 18 silos for S3 ballistic missiles with a range of over 3,500 km. It has 30 Mirage 4A strategic bombers, which carry nuclear weapons having a range of 4,000 km. It has over 70 aircraft carrying nuclear weapons of the tactical strike air force with a range of over 1,000 km. It has launch ramps for Pluton operational and tactical missiles with a range of over 120 km. We will also mention the fact that in France they have strategic missiles with S4 ground stations in the development stage, whose range is already greater than 5,000 km, and apart from this, missiles launched from the sea whose range is up to 6,000 km. Both missiles are equipped with multiple warheads. For ground forces they are developing a (?GD) operation and tactical missile with a range of over 350 km.

[Presenter] Overall, around 4,000 nuclear weapons are currently held in readiness by NATO. These facts are perhaps a telling testimony that there does not exist any threat to Europe by the remaining weapons in Soviet hands because on its side, too, there is an enormous force capable of destroying civilization many times over, not only on the old continent but in the entire world.

The question of the demilitarization of space, of Star Wars or President Reagan's so-called Strategic Defense Intiative, is of utmost importance. In this regard, Washington does not intend to adhere to what was agreed in Reykjavik, that is, that both sides would pledge themselves to observe for the duration of 10 years the ABM Treaty and not to violate it.

The United States would like to revise the ABM Treaty and has proposed that it would pledge itself to observe the treaty only for a shortened period, that is for 7 years. After the lapse of this period, each side would have the right to develop its own space strike weapon systems.

Thus, a situation has been created in which the Soviet Union has been asked to share in the dilution of the ABM Treaty, whose duration would be limited to 7 years. Afterward, the entire world would find itself facing the prospect of a threat from space strike weapons. It is quite natural that such a situation does not satisfy the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is pushing energetically for the demilitarization of space. In its proposals in Geneva it has come somewhat closer in order to accomodate the U.S. side. It has proposed, for instance, to examine the question of what systems or their components could be transported into space within the framework of research and tests. The aim of the Soviet Union is to convince the United States of the irrationality of building a system of anti missile defense in space. This attempt to also take into account Washington's endeavors has not met with understanding. Washington desires by all means to plan and secure in space the deployment of those weapons that would in the end lead the world to a nuclear catastrophe.

A number of articles have appeared in the West saying that President Reagan wishes to conclude a disarmament agreement with the Soviet Union before he leaves the White House. We asked Vladimir Chernyshev to air his view of such speculations.

[Chernyshev] Yes, this is true. There have appeared a number of articles in the West reporting that the President would now wish to enter history as a peacemaker and that he would therefore wish to conclude an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union. To answer such a question is of course not simple. Why? Because the President, as we remember well, has spoken a great deal during his tenure in the White House about the necessity to put an end to the "evil empire". He has given lectures about his anticommunist ideas and declared crusading campaigns, all of which can be difficult to put in harmony with practical steps in the direction about which there is so much talk now. It is of course possible that the President would truly like to acquire fame as a peacemaker but here another question arises, whether those circles that brought him to power, which brought him to power on the wave of anticommunism, will permit him to do so; whether they will allow him to become a peacemaker.

[Presenter] Despite all this, there is a lot of talk now about the possibility of a new summit. Are there reasons to be optimistic in this area, Comrade Chernyshev?

[Chernyshev] No doubt certain reasons exist. In my view the achievement of an agreement on medium-range missiles would be enough for the leading representatives of both states to meet and sign this agreement. At the same time however, as we have already said, certain doubts arise as to whether Washington truly wants to prepare such agreements for signature. A whole number of obstacles are piling up. Priorities are changing at talks; we have spoken about that. That is why, in my opinion, if we are to make a conclusion it appears that we can hope that the meeting in Washington can take place, and during this year. But mutual movement is necessary for this, movement by both sides. The Soviet Union has already gone a large part of the way, I would say considerably greater than the United States. Now it is Washington's turn.

GORBACHEV TO HEAD DELEGATION TO PACT MEETING

LD261217 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS -- The Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states will hold its regular meeting in Berlin on May 28-29, Yuriy Gremetskykh, first deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, told a briefing here today.

The Soviet delegation will be headed by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the meeting was to consider the situation in Europe and the world at large, including questions of defusing tension in Europe, promoting the all-European process, measures of nuclear disarmament and issues of strengthening further foreign policy cooperation within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD241636 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 24 May 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with APN political observer Spartak Ivanovich Beglov, TASS political observer Yuriy Emmanuilovich Kornilov, and All-Union Radio commentator Vitaliy Sergeyevich Sobolev]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The word renewal reflects changes very important for all of us. This can not only be heard in discussions of our domestic affairs, but it has also entered the practice of international negotiations during talks with representatives of fraternal states. It has also been heard during the visit to the Soviet Union by Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh. The road from Hanoi to Moscow and in the opposite direction is a well-beaten track. Our contacts are traditional and their foundations are firm; but new times set new tasks. It was emphasized during the talks that the growing scale of Soviet-Vietnamese collaboration and the new approaches to questions of the social and economic development of our respective countries elaborated by the 27th CPSU Congress and by the 6th Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress insistently require us to improve the efficiency of cooperation, of the direction of socialist integration, of the international division of labor and of industrial specialization and coproduction. Joint associations and enterprises will be set up and economic links between Vietnam and the Soviet Far East will be strengthened. The training of cadres for Vietnam has been improved and help has been provided in drawing up its long-term economic development program.

It goes without saying that Soviet-Vietnamese collaboration also includes international problems: It is directed toward turning Asia and the Pacific into a region of stability, good-neighborliness, and cooperation. This can only be achieved by the efforts of all states of the region, by settling conflicts by political means, limiting and reducing armaments, and strengthening trust. Speaking at the dinner in honor of Nguyen Van Linh, Comrade Gorbachev drew attention to the problem of medium-range missiles as applied to Asia.

[Kornilov] Well, the Soviet Union is pursuing a vigorous police of clearing Europe of nuclear weapons, and we'll undoubtedly be speaking further today about this very important problem.

But in this present context one would like to emphasize that our country is not pursuing that policy to shift the nuclear threat to other parts of the world, for example to Asia. On the contrary, our aim is to begin with Europe, but to work toward ridding all regions of these weapons; and that presupposes a solution to medium-range problems, not on a regional, but on a global basis. In his speech at the dinner for Nguyen Van Linh on 19 May, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was at pains to emphasize that there would be no obstacle to such a solution if the United States would agree to eliminate its nuclear weapons in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, and also to withdraw its aircraft-carrier fleet to behind agreed limits -- it being assumed that the United States would not have any medium-range missiles on its own territory.

[Sobolev] There have already been plenty of reports that enable us to draw conclusions about world reactions to that proposal. As usual the reactions have been of two kinds, have they not, Yuriy Emmanuilovich?

[Kornilov] That's absolutely true. On the one hand, the public in Asia and in the United States itself applauds and supports the idea: After all, who does not realize that to travel on the route leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons in Asia is to strengthen security -- not only in that vast continent, but also beyond. But the reaction of official circles, and of their allies -- Japan, for example -- is a different one. State Department spokesman Redman, while not directly rejecting the Soviet proposals, is in fact doing so indirectly, by suggesting that the United States has no medium-range missiles in the Pacific, as if the world were unaware that none other than Washington and the Pentagon has concentrated a powerful nuclear fist in Asia and the Pacific, and that they are constantly topping up the nuclear armories on their ships and on their military bases on foreign territory.

[Sobolev] Japan has unfortunately not accepted the Soviet proposal, either.

[Kornilov] In this instance Japan, too, is taking a similar stance. What it amounts to is that they are playing along with the U.S. political propaganda line. KYODO reports, in a recent criticism of the Soviet proposal, that the problems of medium-range missiles should be tackled and solved on a global basis. A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman has gone so far as to assert that there are no nuclear weapons in Japan. As if the international public were ignorant of the reports both in the Japanesc and in the world press, in which facts have many times been adduced to show that such weapons are being delivered to Japan and stockpiled there. As if the world public had no knowledge of the statements by both the Japanese and U.S. military, and by diplomats and politicians too, in which -- either directly or indirectly -- they in fact admit in one way or another the presence of nuclear weapons in Japan. An admission of this kind was made recently, for example, by a prominent member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Munenori Akagi, who once held the post of head of the National Defense Agency. He said in an interview with AKAHATA that the U.S. command is bringing nuclear weapons into Okinawa. Are not such weapons being introduced into Japan's ports by the U.S. aircraft-carriers and other warships on which they have been installing nuclear Tomahawks for a number of years?

[Beglov] In the U.S. arguments against the Soviet proposal for a global zero, for medium-range nuclear missiles in Asia, the idea occurs that the Americans find any restriction on their naval activities unacceptable. Well, you know, this already begins to smack of a homily about America's right to do as it likes on the seas, including in Asia and in the Pacific: Everything is permitted.

In recent days we've heard that the Soviet side has been obliged to strongly protest against two U.S. violations of our territorial waters in the region of Avacha Bay, by the U.S. missile cruiser Arkansas. What is behind this? For some U.S. politicians and admirals the Pacific has become a sort of -- at least in their ambitions it looks alike, as they say, an inland lake. We know there are now 180 U.S. naval vessels concentrated in the Pacific, plus 1,400 aircraft -- that is, fighter-bombers and bombers. Of course in a situation like that it would be naive to expect people to believe the tale that there are no nuclear weapons aboard those ships. Nuclear weapons are known to be based in South Korea. Finally, there are 48 F-16 fighter-bombers based on the U.S. military base at Misawa in Japan. These have a range of 1,600 km and are capable of carrying nuclear weapons and reaching our Far Eastern shores.

[Sobolev] Well, let us move on from the problems of Asia to those of Europe, or rather, to the problem of nuclear missiles in Europe, which continues to attract the closest attention throughout the world, since this is an area where the possibility can be discerned of achieving a concrete agreement, for the first time in history, on the almost complete elimination of a whole class of nuclear missiles. It is for good reason that so much attention was given to this particular problem in Comrade Gorbachev's interview with the Italian Communist newspaper, L'UNITA, a major event of recent days which is being actively commented on in the press, among the public and in political circles in various countries. What I'd like to draw attention to is that one can now distinguish two groups of obstacles that are in the way of concluding a treaty to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe and to cut them back sharply in Asia, as was already mentioned. First, there are the unconstructive elements in the U.S. draft treaty and the obscurities regarding the position of America's NATO allies in Western Europe, without whose consent the U.S. says it won't go ahead with an agreement. There are three elements of the U.S. stance that, above all, place an obstacle in the way of an accord: the intention not to eliminate the Pershing-2 missiles but merely to tinker with them -- these are the ones that can reach the territory of the Soviet Union within minutes. The second is the order in which the reductions would be carried out: the functions of the sides would at first sharply diverge, with the Soviet Union making the reductions while the United States would only verify [kontrolirovat] the process. The third element is the U.S. intention to install the remaining medium-range missiles in such a way that they would assume the character of strategic missiles, since they would be capable of reaching the territory of the other side in the agreement. As I understand it, ways of overcoming these obstacles are now being discussed in Geneva.

As for the West European countries, the idea seems to be that they are supposed to work out a common position by the time the so-called Atlantic marathon -- that is, the series of sessions of the NATO bloc -- comes to an end. By 11 or 12 June, that common position will have been elaborated at a meeting of foreign ministers. For the moment, the majority of these countries have spoken pretty unambiguously in favor of eliminating medium-range missiles on the continent; but as Comrade Gorbachev said in his replies to the journalists of L'UNITA, some people are trying to create an endless chain of more and more new attachments. Here is one example of how far that chain could go. Dregger, the chairman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union faction in the Bundestag, has advocated making the disarmament issue dependent on the reunification of Germany. The representatives of the Free Democratic Party have strongly criticized what they call this far-fetched idea on the part of their partner in the ruling coalition, and the Social Democrats have even said that to carry it out would be a political crime.

[Kornilov] I would add that these ideas -- in quotes -- are being put forward at a time when public opinion polls in West Germany itself show that 78 percent -- mark that, 78 percent -- of respondents are in favor of ridding Europe of the nuclear missile threat.

[Sobolev] These differences of attitude between the public and the ruling circles in West Germany have been having very real political consequences in recent days. In particular, Chancellor Kohl recently put forward the argument that, if we're negotiating on a reduction of nuclear missiles in Europe, we need to reduce not only medium-range and operational and tactical missiles, but also other types. The press of Western Europe, as well as the political circles, have been fairly unanimous in seeing in this an intention to make yet another linkage and still further enlarge the package of issues being examined in connection with the elimination of medium-range missiles -- in other words, to make it even more difficult to get an agreement on this question.

[Kornilov] No, I'd say they are even speaking more bluntly. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU says, for instance, that as a result of Kohl's position, the West German Government stands before the world community as an obstacle in the path of solving this extremely important problem and so delivering West Germany itself, among others, from the nuclear missile threat.

[Beglov] Yes. I would describe the situation like this: On the basis of the impressions I've formed from being in Geneva and talking with members of the Soviet and U.S. delegations and from the discussions going on there within the press corps, as far as the diplomats are concerned, that is to say, the members both of the Soviet and of the U.S. delegation, in spite of the differences you mentioned, both Soviet and U.S. diplomats nevertheless begin from the premise that the elimination of medium-range missiles is above all a matter for the USSR and the United States. It is a question of a Soviet-U.S. agreement, the foundations of which were laid at Reykjavik. All that is needed now is a process of well, gradually arriving at a mutual agreement, if you like, adjusting to each other. In that process, in the work on the text of the treaty, a great and positive role is being played by the position occupied by our country -- by the fact, in other words, that we are pursuing the line of perfecting our proposals, in every direction, so that they may incorporate all the useful thoughts and considerations of the other side, while on the other hand also expecting the other side to cooperate in this endeavor, of course. In that sense the mood of the delegation is that, until they have drawn up a draft treaty, which must then be approved at the summit meeting, they will not get up from the table, and they will work indefatigably.

Now as for the apprehensions. Indeed, the question of the position of the allies is a big worry to all who have an interest in the success of the talks. Therefore all these endless attachments being strung out by certain NATO states as regarded in Geneva in this way: Some governments are trying to carve out for themselves opportunities of some sort to make the process of the talks depend on them and thereby to score points, as it were, within the Atlantic alliance: See how we're concerning ourselves about our security, and so on and so forth. Certain states -- nuclear ones I mean -- such as Britain and France are swayed by considerations of their so-called nuclear status, the fear of losing this mark, you might say, of belonging to the nuclear league, because little would then remain of their prestige on the international scene. All this is perhaps more the psychological, emotional element. But there are also the passive political opponents, including those in West Germany, in Bonn, where one member of the coalition, namely the Free Democratic Party and Foreign Minister Genscher, who represents it in the coalition, has clearly expressed itself in favor of an agreement.

These are all maneuverings by Chancellor Kohl and attempts to act according to the saying: Run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. He is both afraid of scaring off the Liberal members of the coalition, and at the same time loath to repel his right wing.

This has of course affected the election results, both in Hamburg and in Rheinland-Pfalz, where the Christian Democratic Union is generally considered to have suffered considerable losses because of this meaneuvering and a certain lack of principle over this important issue.

So now, of course, with the 4 June looming, when the West German Government is to make a definitive statement on this question, many observers consider that the Federal Republic of Germany and its government simply can't afford the luxury of wrecking an agreement of medium-range missiles, because they would then be displaying in the eyes of the world irresponsibility on this very important question, especially since the meeting that took place on Friday between Chancellor Kohl and French President Mitterrand, after which it was clear that the French side actually does not support many of these attachments that Kohl spoke of earlier. After that one must assume that the West German side will take the only decision that is now permissible: not to obstruct what is being done in Geneva.

[Kornilov] I'd agree with that, with one addition. Truth to tell, if we glance at the history of international relations in recent times -- recent decades, actually -- we're hardly likely to find there are pages where Washington has demonstrated that it takes much account of its allies. Washington has displayed the very opposite. So Bonn may, as you say, risk a rational decision on one condition: that all these amplifications and linkages from Bonn that we were talking about really originate on the banks of he Rhine and not in Washington.

[Beglov] In the case I'd make the Washington address more precise: We should be talking about the Pentagon.

[Kornilov] The Pentagon, you're right.

[Beglov] At the meeting of defense ministers in Stavanger -- NATO ministers -- the Pentagon and its boss imposed the formula that the NATO countries must upgrade and strengthen their nuclear weapons in the spirit of the strategy of flexible response. So with one hand the U.S. Government is negotiating, while with the other hand it is laying mines under talks.

[Kornilov] That can't be ruled out.

[Belgov] That's right. But, you know, I remember what Reagan said of his own administration at the very beginning of his rule: Sometimes we have a situation where the right hand does not know what the extreme right hand is doing. That may be what's happening here.

[Sobolev] I'd like to point out that the Geneva talks, and also the meetings and consultations in Western Europe taking place in connection with the medium-range missile problem, are surrounded by, I'd say, a very special, very intense public atmosphere. The elections in Hamburg and Rheinland-Pfalz have precisely shown that the voters, the public, have no intention of reconciling themselves to the politicians who want to hinder the reaching of an agreement. It looks as though the West European politicians may have learned a lesson from this. In Britain, for instance, no sooner had the Conservatives announced an early election than they practically at once said they were ready to welcome a medium-range missile agreement. In Italy, where an early election is also in the offing, the government has adopted a positive attitude to the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles. This problem is of interest not only to the Europeans and the United States. But also to the entire international community.

The Delhi Six, on the occasion of the third anniversary of its foundation, issued a statement, stressing the importance of averting a nuclear disaster and achieving universal disarmament. It draws special attention to the talks concerning nuclear missiles in Europe, and says the achievements of an agreement on medium-range nuclear systems would, in itself, be merely the first step toward the common goal of total destruction of nuclear weapons throughout the world. We emphasize once again the very great importance of implementing the two important measures set out in the Delhi and Mexico Declarations: Ending all types of nuclear tests, and preventing the arms race from being extended into space.

I would now like to draw the attention of our listeners to the fact that the end of May this year calls to mind events that happened 15 years ago and remain to this day extraordinarily topical. In May 1972 a document was published on the foundations of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. It enshrined for the first time in the form of a treaty the principle of peaceful coexistence as the basis for maintaining peace between the Soviet Union and the United States. It also enshrined another fundamental principle in international relations -- equality and identical security. Even now, resolving any issues in East-West relations, and other issues too, is possible only in accordance with those two principles.

At the same time, 15 years ago, the SALT I Treaty, or the Interim Agreement on Certain Measures with Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, was also signed.

[Beglov] Finally, what in my view was the main fruit of what some historians call the Soviet-American week of May 1972 -- the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missiles Systems, or the ABM Treaty.

[Sobolev] Yes, whose fate is still today causing very stormy debates in various circles, even within the framework of the U.S. political system and of NATO, not to mentnon the entire international community.

[Beglov] The great wisdom behind the idea of this treaty consisted in the fact that it guaranteed each side the opportunity of limiting and reducing strategic offensive weapons systems in the certainty that no developments and no arms race in the antimissile field would create the possibility of a first nuclear strike going unpunished. That was the point of the treaty -- to place abstacles to the development of those types of arms which might destabilize the situation and deprive both powers of the possibility of controlling the situation. For that reason I think that that treaty could be considered to be, in effect, the only existing buttress of stability. If one were to demolish this buttress it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to talk about reducing strategic nuclear arms and indeed other types of nuclear arms as well. Whatever those in the United States who have begun demolition work in the area of Soviet-U.S. detente might say to justify themselves, it seems to me that the main reason is an inability on the part of a considerable section of the U.S. ruling circles to recognize the principles of which you have spoken -- the principles of parity, equality, and identical security. But still, relapses of the old thinking are constantly making themselves felt: The latest examples during the past week are also connected with the ABM Treaty.

[Kornilov] This concerns what is known as the broad interpretation of the treaty signed in 1972. A secret Pentagon report to Congress the other day describes in minute detail the work and tests which the United States could carry out in the SDI program by adopting what is known as the broad, broadened interpretation of that document.

[Sobolev] In effect, it generally wrecks the entire treaty. But although the administration is attempting to win over congress with such letters, it has not been very successful so far. During a recent debate the U.S. legislators adopted an amendment demanding that the administration refrain from adopting the broad interpretation. In addition, U.S. NATO allies are also demanding -- with I would say, rare unanimity -- that their senior partner adhere to the ABM Treaty. Not to mention the Soviet Union: The Soviet position, which rejects the militarization of space and demands adherence to the ABM Treaty at the minimum for the following 10 years, was confirmed in the interview granted by Comrade Gorbachev to the newspaper L'UNITA.

There was another issue raised in that interview which has attracted wide attention around the world over the past few days -- the issue of problems connected with Afghanistan.

[Kornilov] In that interview Mikhail Sergeyevich laid special emphasis on the fact that the policy of national reconciliation which Afghanistan has been pursuing since the beginning of the year contains all the necessary components for a political settlement inside the country. Naturally, this should be combined with a settlement of its external aspects -- that is an end to external interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

[Sobolev] But, unfortunately, precisely such a combination of which you have been speaking has not happened to date. I want to recall the visit by Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan to Washington. During his visit there was talk of new supplies of U.S. weapons to Islamabad and of Pakistan being increasingly drawn into the orbit of U.S. foreign policy, with its clearly expressed anti-Afghan aspect.

[Kornilov] Quite correct. The United States and the forces of regional reaction are continuing to supply massive supplies of modern weapons to the dushmans, they are continuing the training of their combat groups beyond the borders of Afghanistan, and, above all, on Pakistan territory; they are erecting obstacles to the return of refugees to the DRA. Taking shape here in front of us -- and not for the first time -- we have a certain tactic of the foes of Afghanistan and of the foes of detente.

Hardly so some, if only a few, positive shifts in the cause of achieving a settlement of the Afghan problem become discernible, when, immediately, we redoubled energy, they start erecting artificial obstacles and barriers to obstruct the development of this kind of positive process.

For example, very recently I was on a journalistic assignment in Pakistan, and I saw with my own eyes there how great is the desire of the Afghan emigrees -- and I was told there are now about 3 million of them in Pakistan -- to return home, and how difficult it is for them to achieve this legitimate wish of theirs. Thoroughly bloodchilling tales are passed from mouth to mouth in Afghan emigre circles in Pakistan about how the counterrevolution deals with so-called dissenters among them. Thus, in the region of Teri Mangal, near to the Pakistani-Afghan border, dushmans shot 40 refugees who were returning home, including women and children. A certain Malang -- a fanatical mullah -- cut off the heads of six sleeping people who had dared to respond positively to the policy of the Afghan leadership. In the Nusir Bagh refugee camp near Peshawar, (Abdul Hamid), one of the elders of the Pashtun tribe, was hanged after advocating an end to the bloodshed in the DRA. In Peshawar, seven Afghan girls, who would have liked to return to the DRA, and who had been threatened with retribution, killed themselves.

Apropos, apart from everything else, in listing these facts, the following, more than legitimate question arises: Why is it that these and other scandalous facts are not noticed by those circles in the West who so avidly demonstrate their concern at the problem of the Afghan refugees, appealing for compassion and mercy?

[Sobolev] Well, Yuriy Emmanuilovich, I wanted again to draw attention to the fact that all the same, more than 40,000 Afghan refugees have returned home, and we may evaluate the significance of this figure, precisely by bearing in mind the situation which confronted them in their search for a way home.

[Kornilov] Absolutely correct, and this process is still going on. In Islamabad, for example, I was given the text of an address which is being distributed by the Society for Saving Refugees which has been set up in Pakistan. This is a very moving document. For example, I shall quote lines from it which will give you an idea of what is going on there: Refugees residing in Pakistani camps are living in the most inhuman conditions. They are deprived of medical aid and social services. Almost all of them are suffering from malnutrition, illness, and lack of housing at all the seasons of the year. The refugees receive less than one-fourth of the financial aid rendered by charitable organizations, and the greater portion of these funds is intercepted by the leaders of the Afghan emigres and by Pakistani generals. The society, the document continues, calls on all Islamic states to condemn the inhuman policy of the Pakistani regime, which is aimed at continuing the bloodshed in Afghanistan, and, sparing no efforts, to struggle for an end to the fratricide in the country.

Well, as you can see, the society is appealing to Islamic states, but the appeal to put an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan is growing louder in other countries on all continents also. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed when replying to questions of the newspaper L'UNITA, the main thing is to move quickly along the path of an Afghan settlement on an honest and just basis.

[Sobolev] The time for our broadcast has run out. We shall take our leave of you. Thank you for your attention. All the best.

JOINT DISARMAMENT STATEMENT BY DELHI SIX

PM260821 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 87 Second Edition p 5

["Joint Statement by Leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania, and Sweden on 22 May 1987"]

[Text] Three years ago, on May 22, 1984, we demanded that the danger of nuclear catastrophe should not jeopardize the survival of humanity. Today we come out with a call not to jeopardize the possibility of setting the beginning to the process of nuclear disarmament.

Since the time we came out with our first call, we welcomed the resumption of the dialogue on nuclear and space arms. During the Geneva summit in November 1985 President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev declared that "nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought." Reykjavik showed clearly that far-reaching agreements in measures for nuclear disarmament can be achieved given political will.

Talks on the questions of disarmament are at the decisive stage now. There is a real opportunity to reach agreement on at least one major direction. It seems that the breakthrough in the question of nuclear arms in Europe is near.

An agreement on the elimination of intermediate range nuclear forces from Europe would be of substantial importance and would make it possible to overcome a serious psychological barrier since such an agreement would for the first time lead to mutual withdrawal and destruction of nuclear means currently in the combat arsenal. Therefore we insistently urge the United States and the Soviet Union to conduct the present talks in such a way as to conclude them successfully within 1987.

But agreements on intermediate-range nuclear forces would be just an initial step on the road to our common goal -- the complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere. In the Delhi Declaration and the Mexico City Declaration we have demanded two important measures: The termination of all nuclear weapon tests and the prevention of an arms race in space. We confirm the cardinal importance of these measures.

In Mexico City we have made a concrete proposal on verification of the termination of nuclear testing. This proposal remains valid.

Fear and distrust have been an obstacle to progress in disarmament too long. Weapons and fear sustain each other. The time has come to break off that vicious circle and lay down the foundations of a more secure world. The present momentum should not be lost.

We urge President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to be equal to this task to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of nuclear catastrophe.

USSR UNESCO OFFICAL ON PROBLEM-SOLVING ROLE

LD231144 Moscow TASS in English 2105 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Paris May 22 TASS -- New political thinking presupposes mutual understanding and all-round development of international cooperation, said USSR Permanent Representative at UNESCO Yu. Khilchevskiy, addressing the 126th session of UNESCO Executive Board under way here. Collective measures for scientific, cultural, economic development, joint steps for using the energy of atom, for environmental protection, these are the links of confidence, its material manifestations.

As far as UNESCO of the future goes, it must really become the centre for thoughts of the world intellectual community about the destinies of the civilisation, the pioneer in the quest of the (?world) to resolve fundamental problems faced by humanity, he said.

It is now necessary and extremely important to engage the best minds of humanity, advanced scientists, not in order to work to create new military programmes such as the "Strategic Defense Initiative" but in order to direct their potential at solving problems of the elimination of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, housing shortage -- the problems on which normal life of people in all countries hinges. It is a duty of UNESCO to lay its stone in the foundation of the construction of the future, the Soviet representative said in conclusion.

STATUS OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE EFFORT VIEWED

PM201509 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 19, 8-14 May (Signed to Press 7 May 87) p 10

[Article by Yu. Vinogradov, USSR deputy representative on the UN Special Committee on the Indian Ocean: "On the Path Toward a Conference in Colombo"; first paragraph is ZA RUBEZHOM introduction]

[Text] The preparation of working documents at the spring session of the UN Special Committee on the Indian Ocean, which ended recently, signifies an important step toward convening a conference on the Indian Ocean in Colombo. The struggle to turn the Asia region into a zone of peace is thus acquiring increasingly specific content, despite U.S. efforts on any pretext to block the committee's decisions and to strengthen its own military-strategic positions in this vast region.

The question of turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace recently has become one of the major international problems. The emergence of a dangerous source of tension in this region affects dozens of countries and huge masses of people. The permanent presence in the Indian Ocean of a large formation of U.S. warships -- including aricraft carriers, missile cruisers, and amphibious assault forces -- and the ramified network of U.S. bases, the "conquest" of the Indian Ocean zone by U.S. missile-carrying submarines and strategic bombers, Pakistan's rearmament, the attempts to prevent national reconciliation in Afghanistan, Washington's imperial ambitions in declaring vast stretches of the Indian Ocean to be a zone of its "vitally important interests" on the pretext of ensuring security of the sea-lanes -- all this arouses legitimate anxiety in the countries of the region and beyond. It must be clear that in our nuclear missile era it is hardly possible to secure anything by military force, including the security of the sea-lanes.

"The Chairman's Seven Points" [subhead]

The Soviet Union considers the Indian Ocean problem to be a political one and that it must be solved by political means. In this its position completely coincides with the position of the nonaligned countries, on whose initiative -- primarily Sri Lanka but also India, Tanzania, and other nonaligned Indian Ocean countries -- the UN General Assembly adopted in December 1971 the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

We must give credit to the political foresight of this idea's initiators, who, guessing the unfavorable development of events in this region, called on the great powers in the Declaration to hold consultations with the Indian Ocean's littoral states with a view to halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean, to eliminate all bases and military installations in this region, and to not site nuclear and other forms of mass destruction weapons here. The Declaration also indicated the inadmissibility of warships and aircraft using the Indian Ocean to threaten or use force against the littoral states.

The adoption of the Declaration was, in essence a recognition of the necessity to ensure collective security in the vast Indian Ocean region, not by creating military alliances, but on the basis of the collective efforts of interested states. In other words, this idea has become a part of the concept of Asian security and came from the Asian states themselves.

In 1972, the UN General Assembly created a Special Committee on the Indian Ocean as its subsidiary organ for the purpose of implementing the Declaration and instructed it to study the consequences of the proposal to create a peace zone in the Indian Ocean and to propose practical measures in this respect.

Thus, from the very outset the Special Committee was conceived as a UN organ aimed at the specific implementation of the idea of setting up a peace zone. Now this has acquired special significance, inasmuch as recent years have witnessed attempts by opponents of a peace zone to undermine the committee's mandate, to distract it from the solution of the fundamental questions of setting up the zone, and indeed to bury both the committee and the very idea of a peace zone.

Two years later the General Assembly posed the question of calling an international conference on the Indian Ocean and instructed the Special Committee to set about preparing it. There immediately appeared fundamental divergences on this important question between the socialist and nonaligned countries on the one hand and the Western powers on the other. The United States and some of its allies reacted negatively to the proposal to convene a conference, seeing it as an obstacle to the implementation of their plan for a "strategic takeover," that is, putting it simply, the militarization of the Indian Ocean.

For its part, the Soviet Union expressed its readiness to take part in consultations on questions of preparing a conference.

Despite the overtly negative line of the opponents of a conference and a peace zone -- and they are in the minority -- the nonaligned counties with the support of the socialist countries on the Special Committee systematically saturated its work with specific proposals and documents. The fact is that a peace zone is to be set up anew: In the history of diplomacy there is no analogy that could be followed. The supporters of the zone are moving along an untrodden path. So the nonaligned countries, in an attempt to find some kind of structural framework and to avoid a chaotic unproductive discussion, secured the adoption by the committee of a program for discussion of the issues essential to the creation of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean. Submitted in the form of a quite logical list of questions, this program includes: 1 -- the zone's geographical limits; 2 -- the foreign military presence; 3 -- nuclear weapons; 4 -- security; 5 -- the peaceful settlement of disputes; 6 -- the use of the Indian Ocean by foreign vessels and aircraft; 7 -- other questions. This program, entitled "The Chairman's Seven Points," is to this day the basis on which an international legal document designed to regulate the status of the peace zone is being formulated.

Washington's Double Standard [subhead]

Subsequently the group of nonaligned countries introduced the "Fundamentals for the Agenda" of a conference -- a document which no conference can do without. Its key provision is to formulate "the ways and means and program of action for the purpose of implementing the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace."

In accordance with the General Assembly's instruction, the committee examined in detail such documents as the agenda and procedural rules, determined the composition of the participants and the level of representation, and is conducting a businesslike discussion of the appropriate framework of a draft international agreement.

The opponents of the peace zone have attempted in every possible way to block the discussion of questions of essentials, and five times already have wrecked the deadlines established by the General Assembly for convening a conference, citing the thesis -- taken out of context from the UN resolution on the Indian Ocean -- on the necessity of "taking into consideration the political climate and the security climate." Moreover, the U.S. delegation in particular maintained that the unresolved Afghan problem does not permit the convening of a conference and insisted on discussing the so-called "Afghan question" in the committee.

But nobody, the nonaligned countries' delegations stressed, charged the committee with discussing Afghan affairs, and as for a "Political climate not permitting the opening of a conference," it somehow did not prevent U.S. repesentatives and some other opponents of the peace zone taking part in the international conference on the economic aspects of the Indian Ocean, which took place in January in Colombo. A double standard can obviously be seen here.

In view of the failure of the "frontal attack" on the committee made by the U.S. representative in isolation at the July session last year when he proposed (and was forced to withdraw his proposal) disbanding the committee altogether (!), this year at the Special Committee's spring session (March-April) the U.S. delegation "renewed" its position. Repeating his threadbare thesis that the Afghanistan problem "is an obstacle on the path to Colombo," but realizing that prospects for an Afghan settlement are acquiring real outlines, the U.S. representative put forward a new "argument": "The continuing bloody confrontation between Iran and Iraq," it stated, "is making a genuine peace zone unattainable in the foreseeable future (!)" Thus he revealed that the United States already is looking for new pretexts to wreck the conference.

The proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the Indian Parliament 27 November last year during his official friendly visit to that country, gave a powerful boost to the idea of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean.

The new Soviet initiatives on the Indian Ocean aim to set in motion the business of easing military tension in this region. They are moving in the same direction as the concept of a peace zone put forward by the nonaligned countries and are giving concrete expression to a series of aspects of this problem. When we talk about agreements, guarantees of secure sea-lanes as well as guarantees of the littoral countries' sovereignty over their natural resources, we are not thinking in abstract categories. We propose drawing up such agreements during negotiations by interested states using Indian Ocean waters. Such agreements also can be included in an international legal document regulating the status of the Indian Ocean peace zone. Of course, we are not against talks on these questions being conducted within the framework of an international conference on the Indian Ocean. When putting forward these concrete proposals we also took into account the fact that a number of countries have expressed concern about the possible threat to navigation, particularly in the Persian Gulf zone, and also the corresponding international straits.

Advocating the ensurance of military-political stability in the Indian Ocean region, the Soviet side has expressed its readiness to begin talks on a substantial reduction in both the number and activity of the naval forces in this region with the United States and other nonlittoral states whose warships are permanently stationed in the Indian Ocean.

How did the United States reply to this? Their powerful naval grouping in the Indian Ocean, which relies on a ramified base infrastructure, numbers 28 units, including a multipurpose attack aircraft carrier. [paragraph continues]

In addition, during the work of the committee's spring session, at the end of March, UPI -- citing official sources -- reported that the leadership of U.S. naval forces had decided to maintain attack aircraft carrier formations in the Indian Ocean on a permanent basis. Informing Congress of this, the agency indicates, Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that in order to fulfill such a task it was essential to increase the number of aircraft carriers to 15, in which regard the U.S. Navy required the allocation of the resources to build two new attack aircraft carriers. Moreover, the admiral acknowledged that the aircraft carriers would be patrolling the Indian Ocean region throughout the 1990's. Such are the positions of the Indian Ocean peace zone's opponents on the Special Committee.

The Main Result of the Spring Session [subhead]

At the Special Committees's above-mentioned spring session, the Soviet delegation, responding to a request from the Indian delegation and a number of other countries, explained in more detail our proposals on confidence-building measures applicable to the Indian Ocean. It is a question of both quantitative and qualitative limitations in relation to the nonlittoral states' warships, airborne assault forces, and warplanes in the Indian Ocean down to safe, mutually agreed limits that remain to be defined. Ships, submarines, and other carriers of nuclear weapons must, of course, be withdrawn from the Indian Ocean region. Maneuvers, particularly large-scale maneuvers, wherever they might be conducted, can lead to heightened tension. Thus it is essential to introduce definite limitations on maneuvers conducted by the nonlittoral states. In particular, confidence-building measures, such as the timely notification of large-scale maneuvers, the invitation of observers, and so forth, ought to be examined. There should also be agreement on limiting the number of annual large-scale naval exercises and maneuvers, and the warships and aircraft taking part in them.

By way of guranteeing the security of the sealanes, there should be a ban on any naval maneuvers or exercises in international straits and the regions adjacent to them, the confines of which would be subject to agreement.

The question of nuclear weapons is particularly sensitive for the countries of the region. Taking this into consideration, the Soviet delegation, citing the nuclear provisions of the Declaration, stated that the USSR has no nuclear weapons in the Indian Ocean and is ready to undertake not to place such weapons in the Indian Ocean and in the countries of this region if all the nuclear powers adopt a similar undertaking and if the Indian Ocean's littoral and mainland states undertake not to offer their territories for the siting of nuclear weapons. It is the USSR's opinion that states which do not possess nuclear weapons and do not have them on their territory have the absolute right to reliable international legal guarantees of their security, and guarantees that nuclear weapons will not be used against them.

The main result of the Special Committee's spring session was that the group of nonaligned countries introduced the long-awaited document "Stages of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean." According to this document, it is intended that at the first stage the delegation heads issue political statements on the peace zone and adopt a final document containing the principles, tasks, machinery, and action program in terms of realizing the aims of the peace zone. At the second stage it is intended to discuss and formulate an international agreement with provisions for the creation of a peace zone, and at the third -- the signing of such an agreement with binding provisions.

Thus, all the conference working documents which the UN Special Committee on the Indian Ocean -- acting as the conference's preparatory committee -- had to submit on the instruction of the General Assembly have been prepared.

A new and very important step on the road to Colombo has been taken. The formation of a peace zone in this region would not only secure the normalization of the situation and the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean, but would promote the solution of a wider problem -- transforming the whole of Asia into a zone of peace and cooperation, which could be achieved by the Asian states' united efforts on the basis of an all-embracing approach through talks and consultations at the bilateral, regional, and subsequently, pan-Asian levels.

SCIENTISTS FORUM ON PEACE IN NUCLEAR AGE ENDS

LD210122 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS -- A two-day meeting attended by well-known scientists and public figures from Eastern and Western countries which came to a close here today discussed new approaches to ensuring durable peace in a nuclear-space age. They continued a discussion that started last February at the Moscow international forum "For Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity."

The meeting was organized by the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, the Committee of Soviet Scientists in Defense of Peace, Against the Nuclear Threat, and the Scientific Council for the Study of Problems of Peace and Disarmament.

Soviet participants in the meeting called attention to the principle of reasonable sufficiency of military potentials worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress, and to proposals contained in the Budapest appeal of the Warsaw Treaty member countries.

These proposals provide for a steady reduction of the armed forces and armaments in Europe to the level which would be sufficient only for defense, only for repulsing an aggression, and which would not permit European countries, including the two alliances confronting each other, to stage any offensive operations.

Representatives of the public from Britain, West Germany, Denmark, the U.S. and other Western countries spoke, in their turn, about the concept of military detente worked out in those countries, specifically, that of "non-offensive defense."

Participants in the meeting expressed satisfaction over the content of the discussion which was held in a businesslike and open atmosphere. Agreement was reached on continuing and deepening the dialogue.

COMMENTARY ON WEINBERGER TV APPEARANCE

LD251659 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS -- TASS Political commentator Boris Shabayev writes:

The Pentagon has found the most suitable place where to defend the United States: It is the Persian Gulf, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has told compatriots in the "Face the Nation" television show.

He called for increasing American military presence in the region in every way and gaining access to further military bases in coastal countries.

"There are good bases in Bahrain and in Kuwait and in a number of places", Weinberger said, but added that America would still want more.

In addition to the U.S. naval force in the Gulf, he demanded also permanent air patrols of the area to be arranged by the U.S. Air Force.

He called for all those moves, of course, on the plea of protecting U.S. interests and free access to oil jeopardized, he alleged, by a threat emanating from the Soviet Union which, Weinberger asserted just as falsely, was seeking a monopoly in the region.

Demonstrating a miraculous ability (?mishandlings), he dispensed one tall tale after another, including charges that the Soviet Union has fabricated such plans for generations and warnings that a vacuum will be formed unless America acts fast enough to fill it with its Armed Forces.

The Pentagon chief's remarks were noteworthy, however, not for that set of absurdities but for providing a striking illustration of the U.S. Administration's irresponsible and extremely dangerous attitude to regional conflicts.

While waving the bogeyman of a "Soviet threat" wherever it can, it is deliberately out to stoke up and globalize these conflicts instead of joining in efforts by the vast majority of the world community to settle them by peaceful political means.

Weinberger's pronouncements also shed extra light on Washington's objectives in the Iran-contras operation, which were to douse the flames of the Iran-Iraq war with petrol and thus make it easier for itself to fulfill its long-standing ambition to establish U.S. military control over a region which is really important strategically and as a source of raw materials.

Weinberger could not give a coherent answer when asked by reporters if it wasn't true that the United States had itself engendered problems in the Gulf by selling arms to Iran. [Words indistinct] only newsmen that are concerned about the government's actions in the region. All Middle East policies of the administration were now being questioned also in Congress, NBC television noted.

The question of whether the price of human lives and material expenses that the United States had had to pay for its military presence in the region was really justified was being answered in the negative there by many, the network added.

The false concern about a "free passage of ships" in the Gulf and even falser charges against the Soviet Union are nothing more than a smoke screen for covering up the U.S. Administration's own neo-globalist designs.

As for the Soviet Union's real position, the USSR attaching exceptionally high significance to the freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf, suggests opening multilateral talks without delay for ensuring the security of sea lanes in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Given good will, there are no problems that could not be solved by political means.

STATE DEPARTMENT 'WITHDRAWAL' OF PRESS PASSES CITED

LD222235 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] [Announcer] The embassies of socialist countries in Washington today received an official note from the State Department, notifying them that the journalists from their countries are being deprived by their permanent passes to the press section of the State Department [Video shows correspondent Vladimir Dunayev talking to camera in street outside various buildings]

[Dunayev] This is not the only building prohibited to us in Washington. We have not been able to get a pass to the White House for 2 years now. My cameraman and I have been working here for 2 years now, and for 2 years we have been endeavoring to obtain passes, and for 2 years they have not been issued to us. First of all the documents were lost, and then, it was claimed, the CIA or the FBI were studying us and for this reason we could in no way be issued a permit to allow us to function normally. One should take into account the fact that we are unable to get a pass to a single event, because we have to give the State Department a minimum of 2 days' notice. By that time, the event has already melted away and no longer exists. And so on and so forth. That is how matters stand with regard to the Helsinki agreement on freedom of information in the democratic United States.

Washington is now saying that they would like to see a summit meeting and that they would very much like the Soviet leader to visit the United States, but I find it hard to imagine how we Soviet journalists could cover his visit for Soviet viewers and for Soviet readers in conditions where we are being hampered. Evidently some people here very much want us to cover the full scope of American life and for its not to be shown in its many aspects. They want there to be no exchange of ideas and no exchange of genuine information. They want us to sit within four walls and get our information secondhand from the newspapers. The duller this information is, the better it is for them. That is the picture that one gets here in Washington.

[Announcer] In the opinion of observers, the U.S. State Department's discriminatory measures have been taken in the hope that the Soviet Union will respond to these actions in a similar way and also take away the passes of U.S. correspondents to the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center. The point is that at the regular briefings at the USSR Foreign Ministry's Press Center in Moscow, information is often given that is evidently not always convenient or necessary for dissemination in the United States, but American correspondents nevertheless report on it.

Termed 'Provocative'

LD251841 Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS -- The action by the U.S. authorities to deny journalists from socialist countries the right to visit the press office of the State Department restricts access to official sources of information and is of a clearly discriminating nature, Spartak Beglov, a political news analyst of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, told TASS.

There are not any such discriminating terms and regulations in effect in socialist countries. Conversely, a diametrically opposite tendency to develop and improve conditions for work, make them propitious to the maximum for reporters, including those from the United States, to get information is observed in our country and in coutries of the socialist commun8ty which I happened to visit.

On the example of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY I could cite dozens of instances which show the extent to which we try to help journalists to get the so-called first hand information.

The principle of openness underlies the operation of the Press Centre of the Foreign Ministry in Moscow. The reporters accredited in Moscow got such opportunities for work which they did not have earlier.

As to the U.S. action, a provocative scheme, the bid to limit, shrink access to information lie at its core. A peculiar reaction to the Soviet policy of openness, isn't it?

If this action was designed to provoke the Soviet side, this is a huge miscalculation since we proceed from the premise that the state should aspire to upgrade information exchange in the spirit of Helsinki.

In view of this the question arises: How does this action look like in the light of the accords formulated in the final Act in Helsinki? It seems to me that this step by the U.S. authorities is a direct violation of these accords.

PRAVDA Deputy Editor Comments

LD251833 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 25 TASS -- A discriminating action by the U.S. authorities which denied journalists from socialist countries press passes to the press office of the State Department gives rise to bewilderment and indignation, Yevgeniy Grigoryev, deputy editor-in-chief of the newspaper PRAVDA, told TASS.

It was undertaken at the period when the striving for developing and deepening ties and contacts in the name of improving mutual understanding is clearly felt throughout the world.

The measures restricting journalists' service possibilities and dividing them as it were into first-grade and second-grade categories look strange and wild. These measures are of an apparent discriminating nature towards reporters from socialist countries and put them in an unequal position as compared to their colleagues from Western countries.

This action is in conflict with the assurances about the freedom of press, which we often hear from American officials, including from USIA officials.

MOSCOW CITES PRC, DPRK LEADERS' TALKS IN BEIJING

LD231652 Moscow TASS in English 1529 GMT 23 May 87

[Text] Beijing May 23 TASS -- Talks were held here today between the Acting General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Premier of the PRC State Council Zhao Ziyang and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, [WPK] President of the DPRK Kim Il-song, who is on an official friendly visit in the PRC.

During the talks Kim Il-song and Zhao Ziyang (?informed) one another about the political and economic situation and the foreign policy courses of their countries. They expressed the striving further to develop the tested friendship, this being the common striving of the CPC and the WPK, of the peoples of the two countries.

The Chinese leader confirmed that the PRC invariably and resolutely supports the DPRK's vigorous efforts to ease tensions in the Korean Peninsula and to achieve an independent and peaceful reunification of the homeland.

PRAVDA carries Remarks

PM260803 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS dispatch: "PRC Visit"]

[Text] Beijing, 22 May -- A reception has been held here in honor of Kim Il-song, general secretary of Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and DPRK president, who is in the PRC on an official friendly visit.

China and Korea are close neighbors, they are countries which share common interests, PRC President Li Xiannian said in his address at the reception. The parties and peoples of the two coutries have always supported each other both in the past during the struggle against imperialist aggression and in defense of national independence and at present in the building of socialism and in the cause of the peaceful unification of the motherland. The PRC president gave a high appraisal of the DPRK leadership's efforts aimed at the relaxation of tension and stabilization of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and at the independent and peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and at the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The peoples of our two countries, Kim Il-song said in his reply speech, face common tasks -- defending their revolutionary gains, revealing more fully the advantages and viability of socialism, and waging a struggle for the preservation of peace. Ensuring peace on he Korean Peninsula and achieving the independent peaceful unification of Korea -- this is our nation's demand and simultaneously a most important problem directly affecting the question of the preservation of peace and security in Asia, the Pacific region, and throughout the world. He condemned the "two Koreas" policy implemented by the United States and attempts to perpetuate the division of the country with a view to using South Korea as a nuclear bridgehead.

Forestalling war and preserving peace is the most important issue facing mankind. The socialist countries, nonaligned states, and all peace-loving forces must rally and take vigorous action to launch a powerful antiwar peace champions' movement, Kim Il-song emphasized.

JAPAN 'NOT PREPARED' TO SOLVE NUCLEAR ARMS ISSUE

LD212102 Moscow TASS in English 1923 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

A high-ranking spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry has criticized the readiness to solve the issue of intermediate-range missiles on a global basis, which was expressed by the Soviet Union, arguing that this proposal was totally baseless. He also made an unwarranted statement to the effect that there were no nuclear weapons in Japan.

One gets the impression that the Japanese official spokesman either failed to familiarize himself attentively with the essence of the Soviet stance, or tried intentionally to mislead the public.

What point is at issue? It is common knowledge that the USSR's consent to scrap Soviet and U.S. intermediate-range missiles in Europe by restricting them to a minimum number beyond this continent is a certain compromise. It is explained by the fact that the United States seeks to remain and even to build up its nuclear systems in Asia aimed against the Soviet Union, which compels the USSR to look for a response, to preserve the balance of forces.

It is an open secret for everyone, including Tokyo, that the United States has concentrated a powerful nuclear force in the Asia-Pacific region, augments nuclear arsenals on its warships and at military bases in foreign territories.

The purpose of all this, as John Lehman, an author of the U.S. new sea strategy and former secretary of the Navy, put it, is to maintain the readiness of the U.S. Navy for conducting offensive operations against the USSR in its own territorial waters and launching strikes at targets deep inside Soviet territory.

It is but natural that the Soviet Union cannot turn a blind eye to this. At the same time, it is prepared to solve the issue of the intermediate nuclear force (INF) on a global basis.

There would be no impediments to this if the United States agreed to the elimination of its nuclear systems in Japan, in South Korea and in the Philippines, to withdrawing its aircraft-carrier flotilla, ever more often operating in direct proximity to Soviet shores, beyond the agreed-upon frontiers. Certainly, in this case the United States would not have intermediate-range missiles in its territory.

Such is the stand of the USSR and it appears to be quite logical and grounded. On the other hand, the Japanese spokesman's bold statement to the effect that there are no nuclear weapons in Japan gives rise to bewilderment. The Japanese and world press have repeatedly cited facts of the delivery and storage of nuclear weapons in that country. This was admitted by Japanese and U.S. persons of influence, among them, military men, diplomats and politicians.

Munenori Akagi, a prominent figure of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, who at one time was at the head of Japan's National Defence Agency, said in an interview with the newspaper AKAHATA recently that the U.S. command introduced nuclear weapons in Okinawa. Is it that the U.S. aircraft-carriers and other ships which have been armed with nuclear "Tomahawk" not for the first year and now do not introduce them in Japanese ports?

Did the Japanese authorities check even once the presence of nuclear weapons on them in response to numerous demands by their fellow citizens? Or do they consider that these weapons are unloaded from those ships and submarines somewhere before they enter Japanese ports? Or is it a secret for what purpose U.S. F-16 aircraft, known as capable of carrying nuclear weapons, are deployed at Misawa base?

No, Japan has knowledge about all this. The negative reaction by its spokesman seems to be explained by the fact that in Japan they are not prepared for a joint search of ways to solve the ripe issues affecting the security and interests of the countries in that region.

FURTHER ON JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS' VISIT

LD210126 Moscow TASS in English 1937 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS -- Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, received today a delegation of the Association of Japanese-Soviet Friendship of Japanese parliament led by its chairman Yoshio Sakurauchi. The delegation is staying in Moscow at the invitation of the parliamentary group of the USSR.

They exchanged views on some problems of the international situation. Special attention was devoted to problems of security in the Asia-Pacific region. The Soviet side pointed out that the creation of a system of universal security and a favourable climate for the development of good neighbourly relations among all the countries of that region was one of the main goals of the Soviet Union's foreign policy.

Military preparations carried on by certain forces, measures taken for knocking together military-political alliances, military bases and the kindling of anti-Soviet feelings hamper the development of peaceful good neighbourly relations among countries of the region.

Vitaliy Vorotnikov pointed out the readiness of the Soviet Union to develop mutually advantageous cooperation with Japan. He said that both countries had extensive potentialities in this sphere. It is important that the Japanese side display a proper approach to it. Yoshio Sakurauchi said that Japan also sought to develop truly stable and good neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union.

All the participants in the meeting were of the opinion that the deepening of Soviet-Japanese contacts at all the levels promoted the improvement of mutual understanding between peoples of the two countries and created objective opportunities for their creation.

The conversation between Vitaliy Vorotnikov and the Japanese delegation was businesslike and open.

CPV'S NGUYEN VAN LINH SPEAKS AT KREMLIN DINNER

PM221311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report on 19 May Kremlin dinner speech by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, under the general heading: "CPSU-Communist Party of Vietnam: Cooperation in All Areas"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade M.S. Gorbachev!

Dear comrades!

First of all, permit me to express gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee and to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev personally for the warm, cordial welcome imbued with the feelings of comradeship which the Communists and the people of the Soviet Union have for the Communist Party and the people of Vietnam.

We are profoundly satisfied with the results of the exchange of opinions with Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and the other Soviet leaders. The talks were held in a spirit of profound trust and complete unity of views on all questions of the socioeconomic development and the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

Dear comrades!

We are visiting the USSR at a time when our countries' peoples and all progressive mankind are preparing to solemnly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Over the past 70 years, traveling the path indicated by V.I. Lenin and the October Revolution, the heroic Soviet people have overcome very difficult trials to accomplish great labor and combat exploits and made a decisive contribution to fundamentally changing our planet's appearance, marking a historic turning point in mankind's development. The peoples of all countries will always remember with gratitude the Soviet people's tremendous sacrifices and their great services to the international community and the cause of peace and the world revolution.

The policy of revolutionary restructuring elaborated by the 27th CPSU Congress and the party Central Committee January (1987) Plenum has imparted new historic scope to the great gains of the October Revolution and socialism achieved over the past 80 years, embodied the creative force of Marxism-Leninism in theory and practice, and become the source of most valuable experience for the fraternal parties to study and apply under the specific conditions of their own countries.

The profound restructuring under way throughout the Land of the Soviets has stirred the entire international public, strengthens the confidence of the world's peoples in the struggle to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, reveals the advantages of socialism, and lends it new strength to overcome protacted stagnant phenomena. Restructuring has illumined still more brightly the CPSU's wisdom and boldness and the great role of the motherland of Great October in mankind's historical development.

Restructuring is only taking its first steps, but they are very promising. The Communists and the entire Vietnamese people are attentively following its progress and are firmly convinced that the Soviet people will certainly achieve great successes and usher in a new decisive stage in the development of the USSR and of world socialism and in the struggle for peace throughout the world.

Inspired by the spirit of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, our party at its sixth congress displayed determination for profound renewal in all areas of economic and social life and reorganization of the national economy's structure. The chief effort will be directed toward realizing three major economic programs: for food, for consumer goods production, and for increasing production of export products. We are also pursuing a policy of fundamentally changing the system of national economic management, rejecting bureaucratic centralism, and going over totally to relations of economic accountability [khoraschet] and to socialist management principles to stabilize the socioeconomic situation step by step and create preconditions for carrying out socialist industrialization in subsequent years. At the same time, we are planning to mount a broad movement to enhance the party's militancy and leading role, to strengthen the state apparatus, and to develop the working people's right to be the master of the country. Many difficulties still lie before us, and we are faced with an acute struggle between the new and the old. The new can emerge and develop only on the basis of eliminating the old. However, by following the Sixth Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress policy of renewal, our people will certainly pass all tests and successfully implement the tasks of building and defending the motherland.

Dear comrades!

We note with profound satisfaction the steady strengthening and development of loyal and strong friendship and all-around comradely cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, whose formation and strengthening were associated with the name of President Ho Chi Minh and with the names of other leaders of our parties and countries.

Over the past decades the CPSU and the Soviet people, full of the spirit of lofty internationalism, have constantly given and are giving the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause strong support and tremendous disinterested assistance. The history of the past 70 years has convincingly demonstrated the truth that it was only with the birth of the Soviet state and with its support that the cause of national liberation in the world was able to win great victories, that colonalism was crushed, and imperialism's military adventures directed against Asian, African, and Latin American countries were thwarted. Allow me to take this opportunity to express very profound gratitude to the party of Lenin and to the great Soviet people for their immutable support and assistance.

Guided by Lenin's behests, our party has always been profoundly aware and is aware that the USSR's support and assistance and cooperation with the Soviet Union -- the first and strongest socialist state -- are a necessary condition for the transition of a country with a backward economy to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development.

To resolve the great and complex tasks advanced by the Sixth CPV Congress there is an urgent requirement for Vietnam to resolutely enhance the efficiency of cooperation with the Soviet Union in the political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and ideological spheres. We will only be able to enhance the efficiency of cooperation if we resolutely update our thinking and the mechanism of cooperation with the Soviet Union. In the production sphere we advocate accelerating the process of specialization and collaboration and the division of labor between our countries. Proceeding from these aims, we welcome the organization of cooperation on three levels: along state lines, at the level of ministries and enterprises, the establishment of direct ties, and the creation of joint enterprises on the basis of linking responsibility to the sides' interests.

We are profoundly convinced that, in accordance with the policy of renewal elaborated by our parties' congresses, in the upcoming period Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation will enter upon a qualitatively new stage of development, will with every passing day assume an increasingly broad scale, be enriched with new forms, and enhance efficiency, and will make a worthy contribution to the cause of building and improving socialism in our countries and strengthening the socialist community as a whole. We are sure that Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation will serve as a model of relations between a developed industrial state and an economically backward country and as a graphic example of how a highly developed socialist state gives assistance to an economically underdeveloped socialist country in raising it to the level of developed socialist countries.

Dear comrades!

The present international situation is characterized by tremendous and rapid changes. A resolute struggle is being waged between revolutionary and counterrevolutionary forces at the same time as the struggle between the two social systems is assuming a broad scale under conditions of peaceful coexistence.

Pursuing a Leninist foreign policy imbued with new revolutionary and scientific political thinking, the Soviet Union is enhancing its role as the motive force in favor of easing tension, reducing the threat of nuclear war, and strengthening peace and security throughout the world. The CPV and the Vietnamese people warmly hail and fully support the important, constructive peace proposals advanced by the Soviet Union. These initiatives are a new manifestation of the peace-loving foreign policy course which the Land of the Soviets has pursued for 7 decades and attest to the Soviet Union's tremendous responsibility for the fate of mankind and world civilization. They particularly underline the USSR's vanguard role in international relations.

Peace, security, development -- this is the insistent demand of the Asia and Pacific region, where for more than 40 years an extremely fierce struggle was waged between the forces of socialism, national independence, and progress on the one hand and the forces of imperialism and reaction on the other. That struggle was manifested in the most protracted and bloody wars in the world. It led to profound changes in that important region of the world.

The situation in the Asia and Pacific region remains tense. The course of U.S. imperialism and reactionary forces aimed at increasing tension is countered by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's well known Vladivostok speech of 28 July last year and by the Soviet Union's subsequent dynamic and vigorous diplomatic activity aimed at resolving the fundamental task -- gradually, step by step, achieving the creation of a system of international peace and security in the Asia and Pacific region meeting the innermost aspirations of the people of Asia and giving a new boost to the struggle for peaceful coexistence in the region and throughout the world.

Being victims of the most bloody and protracted aggressive wars of the past 40 years, the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia know better than anyone the price of peace and wish for the establishment of relations of friendship and cooperation with all states, primarily with neighboring states. The peoples of the three countries of Indochina are resolutely struggling to defend their independence and sovereignty and to strengthen the close cohesion and all-around cooperation between Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. At the same time, the three countries of Indochina are persistently seeking to strengthen peace and stability in Southeast Asia and peace and security in the Asia and Pacific region. [paragraph continues]

Cooperating with the Soviet Union in implementing a strategic course in the Asia and Pacific region, the three countries of Indochina advocate a dialogue with China and other countries in the region on the basis of equal rights, respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and mutual understanding in order together to seek a political solution to the problems of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the Cambodian question.

Over the past 8 years the SRV, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the PRK have constantly advanced constructive proposals aimed at achieving a political settlement of the Cambodian problem, whose two chief issues are the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and the removal of the criminal clique of Pol Pot's supporters and the ending of interference in Cambodia's internal affairs. Attaching paramount significance to long-term interests, Vietnam is ready to open a new page in relations with China and the ASEAN states and is ready for a discussion and meetings with them to solve all questions of mutual interest, with a view to the speediest normalizatin of relations among neighboring countries in accordance with the interests of these countries' peoples and the interests of peace in Southeast Asia and the Asia and Pacific region.

Dear comrades!

The results of this visit mark a qualitatively new stage in the development of the relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between our parties and countries. We see this as a powerful source of inspiration and as vigorous support for the Vietnamese people in their efforts to overcome difficulties and successfully fulfill the tasks advanced by the Sixth CPV Congress.

True to President Ho Chi Minh's behests, we will unswervingly follow the course of Vietnam's close cohesion and all-around cooperation with the Sovit Union and will fulfill our obligations in enhancing the efficiency of our cooperation in the interests of our countries' peoples, in the interests of socialism and the cause of peace and progress throughout the world.

Long live the revolutionary spirit of Great October!

We wish the Soviet people under the CPSU's leadership the successful fulfillment of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions!

To the strengthening and continuous development of the great friendship, combat solidarity, and all-around cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union!

To the health of Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and the other leaders of the CPSU, the Soviet state, and the USSR Government!

To the health of the leaders of the CPV and the state and Government of Vietnam!

To the health of all the Soviet and Vietnamese comrades present here!

FURTHER ON NGUYEN VAN LINH DELEGATION'S VISIT

OW181624 Hanoi VNA in English 1604 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 18 -- High-level talks between Vietnam and the Soviet Union were held in the Kremlin today after the arrival in Moscow of C.P.V. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh for an official visit to the Soviet Union.

The Vietnamese side at the talks included C.P.V. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, Do Muoi, Nguyen Co Thach, and others.

On the Soviet side were C.P.S.U. General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, Ye.K. Ligachev, A. Shevardnadze, and others.

The two sides informed each other of the implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth C.P.V. Congress and the 27th C.P.S.U. Congress.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the fruitful development of the close solidarity and all-sided cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union on the basis of the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1978, whose 10th anniversary will be observed in the two countries next year.

Nguyen Van Linh expressed the profound sentiments of the Communist Party and people of Vietnam toward the Soviet Union for its great services over the past 70 years, since the October Socialist Revolution, to mankind's history and to the cause of peace and socialism the world over.

He reiterated the admiration and support of the Communist Party and people of Vietnam to the restructuration of far-reaching significance, which is taking place in the Soviet Union in line with the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 session of the CPSU Central Committee.

Mikhail Gorbachev, for his part, highly appreciated the policy of creative and practical renewal made by the Sixth C.P.V. Congress, and reaffirmed the vigorous support of the Communist Party and people of the Soviet Union for that policy. He wished the Vietnamese people success in the implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth C.P.V. Congress and the second plenum of the party Central Committee.

The two sides focussed their discussion on concrete orientations aimed at renovating and strengthening the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. comprehensive cooperation in more diversified forms and with higher quality and effectiveness. The C.P.V. and C.P.S.U. leaders expressed the two parties' determination to further broaden the cooperation at different echelons, thoroughly study each others' experience, perfect the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. relationship and implement the overall programme of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance on the persistent principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, thus contributing to consolidating the strength of the three Indochinese countries and the socialist community as a whole.

The two sides agreed to sign during the visit a number of agreements on economic cooperation.

The leaders of the two parties had identity of views on all international issues. They affirmed their determination to co-ordinate their work in consolidating world peace and security, fully supporting the struggle of all nations for national independence and social progress. They pledged to do their utmost to prevent the arms race on the earth as well as in outer space.

The two sides noted that Vietnam and the Soviet Union are working hard for turning Asia and the Pacific into a region of peace, security and cooperation on the basis of common efforts made by all countries in the region.

The two sides stressed that it is necessary to reduce tension in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union supports the constructive policy and initiatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, aimed at making healthy the political atmosphere in Southeast Asia and arriving at a political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

Vietnam and the Soviet Union advocate the policy of national reconciliation of the P.R.K.'s Government, the Kampuchean people's right to settle their own internal affairs without outside intervention, and the elimination for good of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Vietnam and the Soviet Union hold that in seeking a solution to international aspects of the Kampuchean issue by a political means, it is necessary to take into account the realities in Kampuchea and the region. The Soviet Union consistently suports the efforts made by the S.R.V., the L.P.D.R. and the P.R.K. aimed at building the foundation of socialism, defending their independence and national sovereignty, and consolidating the fraternal alliance and comprehensive co-operation between the three countries -- an important factor for peace and security in Southeast Asia.

The participants in the talks voiced their countries' desire to normalise and improve their relations with the People's Republic of China, considering it a positive and major factor for the consolidation of stability in Asia and in the international life as a whole. The Soviet side advocates the S.R.V.'s initiatives on conducting the Sino-Vietnamese talks to settle questions of mutual concern.

The two sides highly valued the significance of party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's official visit to the Soviet Union, and of the high-level Vietnamese-Soviet talks, which mark a new step of development in the consolidation and strengthening of the close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the interests of the two peoples, the three Indochinese countries, the socialist community and world peace.

Private Talks Held

OW191659 Hanoi VNA in English 1639 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19 -- C.P.V. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh held private talks with C.P.S.U. General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin this morning.

The two party leaders exchanged views on further increasing the efficiency of the all-round cooperation between the two parties and states and on other international questions of mutual concern.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere overbrimming with cordiality and fraternal friendship.

Also today, Do Muoi, Politburo member and secretary of the C.P.V. Central Committee, and Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the C.P.V. Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, met on separate occasions respectively with Ryzhkov, Politburo member of the C.P.S.U. Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers and E. Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the C.P.S.U. Central Committee and foreign minister.

Nguyen Van Linh Lays Wreath

LD191426 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] The official friendly visit to our country by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee, is continuing. Today he visited Vladimir Ilich Lenin's mausoleum and laid a wreath. Nguyen Van Linh honored with a minute's silence the memory of the creator of the CPSU and the founder of the world's first socialist state. Paying a tribute of profound esteem to the Soviet soldiers who fell in the struggle against fascism, the leader of the fraternal party laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall. [Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1200 GMT on 19 May in its "Novosti" newscast, carries a similar report, adding the folloiwng: "The guest was accompanied by Comrade Medvedev, and other officials."]

Speaks to Friendship Group

OW201847 Hanoi VNA in English 1722 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 20 -- Nguyen Van Linh, secretary general [as received] of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, called and attended a friendship meeting held in honour of the Vietnamese guests.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh stressed that his meetings and talks in the recent days with General Secretary M. Gorbachev and other Soviet party and state leaders, and the cooperation documents signed between Vietnam and the Soviet Union showed the fine results of his visit, the close solidarity and unshakable unanimity of views between the two parties and countries.

Nguyen Van Linh noted that with the signing of those agreements, particularly on cooperation in light industry, the relations between the factory [as received] and its Vietnamese partners will be strongly developed.

Also this afternoon, Nguyen Van Linh had a meeting with Vietnamese now working and studying in the Soviet Union.

Thach Meets Shevardnadze

LD191801 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS -- A meeting was held today between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of Vietnam. He is staying in the Soviet Union in connection with a friendly visit of Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The conversation centred around problems connected with a further consolidation of cooperation between the two countries in the struggle for ensuring universal peace and international security, for achieving a crucial change for the better in the present-day complicated international situation, for ridding humanity of the menace of a nuclear war.

The Soviet and Vietnamese foreign ministers discussed the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and pointed out that the U.S. and some of its allies tried to disrupt the development of positive processes which were really leading to detente in Asia and the Pacific basin.

The foreign ministers of the USSR and Vietnam reiterated the resolve of their countries to work for the improvement of the political climate and for the settlement of conflicts in that vast region, to move towards a firm establishment of peaceful and good neighbourly relations on the basis of joint efforts of countries. The organization there of broad equitable and mutually advantageous trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation would be a step towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are going to take most active part in this process and put at its service their economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation would be a step towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are going to take most active part in this process and put at its service their economic, scientific and technological potential.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam who are staunch supporters of the idea of turning South-East Asia into a nuclear-weapon-free zone are ready to promote its practical implementation.

The Soviet side voiced its full support for the initiatives taken by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and for joint constructive proposals of the three countries of Indochina aimed at an early settlement by political means of the situation around Kampuchea.

The Soviet Union believes that the putting into practice of the appeal of socialist Vietnam to the People's Republic of China on holding talks for the purpose of settling the problems existing in their bilateral relations and developing a political dialogue between the countries of Indochina and ASEAN member countries would become a major contribution to the improvement of the situation in South-East Asia.

The foreign ministers expressed profound satisfaction over the results of their exchange of view held in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding and unity.

Ligachev Receives Do Muoi

LD151439 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 15 May (TASS) -- Yegor Ligachev, member of the Politburo of and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received Do Muoi, member of the Politburo of and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee. During the conversation, which was conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, a number of issues relating to Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation were reviewed. Nguyen Manh Cam, SRV ambassador in the USSR, was present at the meeting.

Do Muoi Meets Ryzhkov

PM201113 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Conversation in Kremlin"]

[Text] On May 19 Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, who is in the Soviet Union in connection with the official friendly visit by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee.

During the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and total mutual understanding, Nikolay Ryzhkov spoke about the implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress' course for a radical restructuring of the country's economic mechanism, its improvement, the creation of an integral system for managing the economy of today, and dwelled on the first results of this work.

Do Muoi gave information about activity on implementing the economic program adopted by the Sixth CPV Congress, which envisages the solution of the foodstuffs problem, a significant increase in the production of consumer goods, an expansion of the export base. Do Muoi also discussed the efforts to draw the broad masses into the process of renovating all areas of the country's social and economic life.

In accordance with the agreements reached in principle during talks between Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh, primary attention in the conversation was devoted to issues of multifaceted [mnogostoronnyy] Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation. It was noted by the two sides that in past years significant successes have been achieved in this area, which contributes toward the solution of the social and economic tasks confronting both countries. At the same time there are great potential opportunities for raising the effectiveness of Soviet-Vietnamese trade and economic ties, and the positive experience which has been amassed allows a creative search for new forms of cooperation to be conducted.

Production sharing and direct ties among ministries, associations, and enterprises to produce goods needed by both Vietnam and the Soviet Union have good prospects.

There was discussion of some additional measures on deepening economic cooperation, raising its effectiveness and broadening economic ties. Particular significance was given to the acceleration of the elaboration and implementation of specific cooperation programs aimed at developing the production of the most important types of production in the SRV.

The Soviet participants in the talks included by N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.K. Gusev and V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; K.F. Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and D.I. Kachin, USSR ambassador to the SRV. The Vietnamese participants included Dau Ngoc Huan, minister and vice chairman of the SRV State Planning Commission, and Nguyen Van Quang, minister-counsellor at the SRV Embassy in the USSR.

Nguyen Van Linh Tours Moscow

PM201125 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Getting To Know Moscow"]

[Excerpts] On 19 May Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, visited the Moscow City Soviet. Gorispolkom Chairman V.T. Saykin told the visitor about the problems being tackled by Muscovites during restructuring in the economic and social spheres.

The Vietnamese Communist leader noted that the processes of renewal gathering momentum in the Soviet Union are generating the greatest interest among Vietnamese Communists and working people since, despite our countries' different levels of development, they must tackle very similar tasks. Moscow's experience deserves enormous attention in this respect.

It was stressed that the traditionally close ties between the two states' capitals make an appreciable contribution to further strengthening friendship between our peoples and enriching SRV-USSR cooperation in all spheres.

The CPV Central Committee general secretary then made a tour of Moscow, inspecting areas of large-scale housing construction. [Passage omitted]

The Vietnamese Communist leader laid flowers at the Ho Chi Minh memorial plaque and at the foundation stone of the Ho Chi Minh Monument.

GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO ROMANIA PREVIEWED

Romania 'Alive with Talk'

LD241914 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 24 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Commantator Vladimir Molchanov, identified by screen caption] Romania is currently alive with the talk of the forthcoming visit by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, and we are beginning today's review with a report we have just received from our special correspondents in Bucharest]

[I. Kudrin, identified by screen caption] For some reason, certain foreign reference books and prospectuses sometimes compare this ancient city with one and then with another European capital. But beautiful Bucharest does not need such comparisons. It has its own special face, its own unique aspect. It's difficult to believe, but many of these houses, harmonious structures, and whole quarters have grown up on the sites of buildings destroyed in the earthquake of 1977. The city and the will of its inhabitants have overcome the consequences of the natural disaster. Here, they know how to build not just quickly, but also durably and beautifully. This is why Bucharest grows beautiful and expands. The inhabitants of the capital are well known for their industriousness, kindheartedness, and optimism. They love cleanliness and order in the streets, greenery and flowers, and they pay particular attention to children.

Our Romanian friends do not hide their problems and concerns. In the recent period a tight economic regimen has been declared in the country. It has become darker in the evenings in these back streets, and colder in the winter in every apartment. Local television broadcasts no more than 2 hours on weekdays. In short, electricity and heat resources are being saved by every enterprise, every establishment, every townsman. The point is that the country is burdened by large debts to Western creditors. Thrift and discipline on the part of everyone are bearing fruits. The debts have already been reduced by half.

The country's industry has begun the Eighth 5-Year Plan successfully. Last year, an excellent grain harvest was obtained. These shots were taken by our cameramen at the modern Red Grivitsa works in the capital. Equipment for the oil industry is produced here. More than half of the output exported is dispatched to the Soviet Union. The enterprise works precisely and harmoniously. Its workers, as do all of their countrymen, believe that the difficulties the country is experiencing are surmountable, and are of a temporary nature. In the end, everything depends on their labor and know-how. Another thing: In the fraternal republic they are aware that Romania is being helped by the Soviet Union to soften the blow of a whole number of problems, primarily the energy problem.

Romania is currently alive with talk of the forthcoming visit by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. This will be an event of enormous political importance, as was stressed in their conversations with us by workers, scientists, and writers. The interest in the visit is enormous, and just in Romania: Representatives of some of the largest foreign news agencies, newspapers, and television companies are gathering in Bucharest today. The first press conference have been arranged for them, in which, among others, experts who came especially from Moscow were taking part. There were many questions put to them concerning restructuring in our country and Soviet-Romanian relations, which are to be given a new impetus by the forthcoming visit by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. [video shows street scenes from Bucharest, and enterprise, the press conference]

Correspondents Note Cooperation

LD241642 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Tomorrow sees the start of the official friendly visit to Romania of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Our special correspondents, Vyacheslav Lavrentyev and Vladimir Korablev, report from Bucharest:

[Unidentified correspondent] The newspaper SCINTEIA, publishes a portrait of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on the front page of today's issue and describes the career of the Soviet leader. Much material in the paper is also devoted to Soviet-Romanian cooperation.

[Second correspondent] There is unusual and multifaceted cooperation in the fields of the economy, scientific activity, culture. During the most recent festival of Soviet theater art, 57 plays of Russian and Soviet writers were staged in Romanian theaters. We have close links in the sphere of scientific-technical cooperation and coordination [kooperirovaniye] which embraces the extraction, chemical, oil refining, power engineering, metallurgy, electronics, and nuclear technology industries.

The Galati metallurgical combine, built with the assistance of the Soviet Union, provides more than half of all Romania's steel and rolled iron. At the Bucharest heavy machine-building works, Soviet lathes, milling machines, and other machine tools are at work. In its turn, this enterprise supplies forging presses to Uralmash. The Elektroputerea, works in the town of Croiova is known as the younger sister of Leningrad's Elektrosila. The interstate program for scientific-technological cooperation and coordination signed last year in Moscow provides for the development of 126 themes, 54 of which are in the priority spheres of scientific-technological progress.

[First correspondent] In a word, our cooperation is multifaceted and is being carried out on a mutually beneficial basis. In concluding our report, we would like to quote the following words from the same newspaper SCINTEIA: Welcome, Comrade Gorbachev, to Romanian soil. A warm and cordial welcome awaits you.

PRAVDA Cites SCINTEIA Article

PM251853 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Important Page"]

[Text] Bucharest, 24 May -- The Romanian people welcome with profound satisfaction the forthcoming official friendly visit to Romania by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the newspaper SCINTEIA writes today. The organ of the RCP Central Committee expresses the certainty that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Romania will constantly strengthen and develop in the interests of the two countries and their peoples and of the cause of socialism and peace on earth.

The new meeting of M.S. Gorbachev and N. Ceausescu, SCINTEIA stresses, will be an important page in the history of the relations between the two parties, countries and peoples and will facilitate the further development of multilateral Soviet-Romanian cooperation. [paragraph continued]

It is taking place at a time when the Soviet people are confidently putting into practice the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress aimed at the broad development of the working people's initiative and creative labor, the acceleration of the pace of the country's socioeconomic development, and society's all-around progress.

For their part the Romanian people are working to implement the decisions of the 13th RCP Congress. In these conditions the broadening and strengthening of Soviet-Romanian cooperation will facilitate the fuller use of both countries' economic potential and the successful fulfillment of the plans and programs for their socioeconomic development. The Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and Romania Through the Year 2000 signed in 1986 opens up new prospects for deepening mutually advantageous bilateral links between our countries. Our countries' collaboration within the CEMA framework is strengthening.

The article points out that Romania ardently supports the Soviet Union's initiatives, as proposed by M.S. Gorbachev, for the elimination of nuclear arms by the year 2000 and welcomes the USSR's proposals for the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe, believing that this opens the way for the elimination of nuclear arms in Europe and throughout the world.

Based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and fraternal friendship, the multilateral cooperation between the USSR and Romania is developing constantly, the newspaper concludes.

GORBACHEV ARRIVES IN BUCHAREST; ACTIVITIES BEGIN

Departure From Moscow

LD250703 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0628 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 25 May (TASS) -- M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today left Moscow for Bucharest at the invitation of N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romanian on an official friendly visit.

V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left together with M.S. Gorbachev.

At Vnukovo Airport, M.S. Gorbachev was seen off by the members of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee V.I. Vorotnikov; A.A. Gromyko; L.N. Zaykov; Ye.K. Ligachev; N.I. Ryzhkov; M.S. Solomentsev; V.M. Chebrikov; E.A. Shevardnadze;

Candidate Members of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee P.N. Demichev; V.I. Dolgikh; B.N. Yeltsin; N.N. Slyunkov; S.L. Sokolov; N.V. Talyzin; A.N. Yakovlev;

Secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee A.P. Biryukova; A.I. Lukyanov; V.P. Nikonov; G.P. Razumovskiy; member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission I.V. Kapitonov; and other comrades.

Among those seeing him off were the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the USSR N. Stynia and GDR Ambassador to the USSR G. Koenig.

TASS Correction to Departure

Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 0717 GMT on 25 May transmits a service message correcting the preceding item as follows:

Penultimate graf, lines two and three should read: ...Nikonov; G.P. Razumovskiy; chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission I.V. Kapitonov;... [correcting Kapitonov's title]

Welcome in Bucharest

LD251018 Moscow TASS in English 0943 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Bucharest May 25 TASS -- (From TASS special correspondents).

The airliner with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on board landed at Bucharest's Otopeni Airport at noon today.

The Soviet leader is making an official friendly visit at the invitation of Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Vadim Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived together with Mikhail Gorbachev.

The state flags of the Soviet Union and Romania fluttered in the wind. The airport building was decked out with welcoming streamers. A guard of honour of the Romanian Armed Forces was lined up on the tarmac.

At the ramp of the IL-62 airliner which taxied up to the site of the welcoming ceremony, the Soviet leader and his wife were cordially greeted by Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife.

Comrade Gorbachev greeted Constantin Dascalescu, member of the Political Executive Committee of the PCR Central Committee, prime minister of the Romanian Government, and other party and state leaders of Romania.

The leaders of the two fraternal parties mounted the podium. The national anthems of the two countries were played. Twenty one salvoes of an artillery salute boomed out over the airfield.

The commander of the guard of honour made a report to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet and Romanian leaders reviewed the guard of honour.

Then the members of the Romanian Government were introduced to Mikhail Gorbachev.

The ambassadors of the USSR to Romania and of Romania to the USSR took part in the welcoming ceremony.

Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu were warmly cheered by representatives of Bucharest work collectives.

The welcoming ceremony ended up with a march-past of the guard of honour.

Wreath-Laying Ceremonies

LD251329 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The official friendly visit to Bucharest by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, began today. Today he visited Freedom Park. Here beside the Pantheon burns an eternal flame in memory of the best sons of the Romanian people who gave their lives for the radiant future of their country. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev laid a wreath on the memorial with a ribbon inscribed: To the heroes of the struggle for the freedom of their people and homeland for socialism. To the Soviet fighting men who fell in the struggle for the liberation of Romania, from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is the inscription on the ribbon of a wreath laid at the memorial to the officers and men of the USSR Armed Forces who gave their lives during the liberation of the country from Hitlerite fascism. At Scinteia Square in the city center, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the memorial to Vladimir Ilich Lenin.

During the laying of the wreaths, guards of honor were mounted by the USSR and Romanian Armed Forces and the anthems of the two countries were played.

Exchanges With City Residents

PM261031 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "USSR-Romania: Along the Path of Good Neighborliness and Cooperation. M.S. Gorbachev's Stay on Romanian Soil"]

[Excerpts] Bucharest, 25 May -- M.S. Gorbachev arrived in Bucharest today. The Soviet leader is paying an official friendly visit at the invitation of N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania. V.A. Medvedev arrived with him. [passage omitted]

Conversations with Bucharest's residents took place near monuments where wreaths were laid.

"Your city is beautiful. Are you pleased with it?" M.S. Gorbachev wanted to know.

Voices: Yes, we love it, and we are trying to make it even more beautiful.

M.S. Gorbachev: There have been numerous changes in Bucharest, major reconstruction is under way. We thought we were the only ones to launch restructuring, but it appears everyone is restructuring. There is no time to waste! But I do hope historical architecture will be preserved. We failed to do this in some places in Moscow, and now we are regretting it.

Addressing those assembled in the square containing the monument to the valiant Soviet Army servicemen who fell in the battles for Romania's liberation from fascism in 1944-1945, M.S. Gorbachev said: "It is necessary to continue the work for which people have given their lives. This is the duty of the living!

"I am very pleased to be among you in these spring days. This is my first visit to Romania. What would you like to tell me?"

Voices: Welcome, Mikhail Sergeyevich. We wish you health and happiness, and successes in your activity.

M.S. Gorbachev: Thank you. I wish you the same. Now Comrade Ceausescu and I will have extensive businesslike talks. Good relations exist between the Soviet Union and Romania. It is necessary to advance further, however.

Elaborating this idea in a brief dialogue with working people in Scinteia Square, M.S. Gorbachev said that both Soviet people and Romanian working people are interested in deepening cooperation between the two countries. Everything is normal when man thinks about the future, he said. As soon as he stops, watch out for misfortunes. The talks with Comrade Ceausescu and other leaders will deal with bilateral relations.

A voice: Peace is needed to advance.

M.S. Gorbachev: We will also talk about questions of war and peace. About what the socialist countries must do to preserve peace. Our countries have complete mutual understanding. The leaderships of both the Soviet Union and Romania are taking specific steps in order to strengthen peace.

A voice: Quite right, and we believe that peace will be strengthened.

M.S. Gorbachev: The socialist countries are firmly standing on their own feet. We can argue and dispute about what has already been achieved and how to make things even better. We safeguard, reinforce, and decorate our socialist home and, whenever necessary, we repair it. This is our own work. I see that you are very concerned about your own country.

Further Exchanges

LD252003 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] On Scinteia Square, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev chatted with working people from Bucharest:

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] I see that you are doing a lot of rebuilding; and in our country, people are restructuring themselves, so they are thinking about the future, so everything is all right. [Video shows medium shots from various angles of Gorbachev close to crowd of citizens, with Raisa Gorbachev occassionally visible a few paces away. Gorbachev's words are translated consecutively into Romanian by an interpreter standing next to him.]

[Unidentified person in Russian] That's right!

[Gorbachev] As long as a person is thinking about the future, everything will be fine. It is only when he has stopped that it always goes wrong. We will be having talks with Comrade Ceausescu and with the other leaders about our bilateral relations. They are good, but in order for them to be even better, we have to think, we have to work, that's the first thing. But we will be talking too about peace, and what our socialist countries have to do for this. We have total understanding of the importance of our countries' responsibility for peace. But what are your opinions?

[Unidentified interpreter] Absolutely right, we think that this cooperation will grow stronger.

[Gorbachev] Good. But why are the women saying nothing? (?From the way you look), this is something very important in itself; a person's face tells you a lot straight away. Even if you tell me everything is good in your country, in the country and in every family as well, I shan't believe you. There are problems. But that isn't the heart of the matter; the heart of the matter is that we socialist countries stand firmly on the ground and on our own feet. We might argue and debate about what's good and what's bad, where the successes have been and what has to be even better. But in the one thing, we are cherishing and strengthening our socialist house, making it finer, where necessary we are repairing it -- that is our cause. I can see that you worry a lot about the country; but just look at the short time in history in which the working people of Romania, taking the path of socialism, have turned a country which was in general backward in many respects into a modern country; that is what you have done. Not you personally [laughter from crowd], but the previous generation, and today's generation has to continue it and do something more, add to it. That's the only way. And I wish you success in transforming your country. We are also doing a great deal at present, and much has been done. The country, the Soviet Union, is vast; and the world is vast.

[Raisa Gorbacheva] Mikhail Sergeyevich, please ask them who has been in the Soviet Union as a tourist.

[Unidentified man in Russian] Five years.

[Gorbachev] You were a student for 5 years?

[Man] In the Moscow Polygraphical Institute, I completed the course, yes.

[Gorbachev] Do you work in SCINTEIA? [video shows man nodding in agreement] All the best, comrades. [murmur from crowd] Please pass on warm greetings to your friends. Goodbye. [cries of goodbye from crowd and applause] [video shows people leaving the square] [end recording]

'Friendliness', Start of Talks

LD251750 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 25 May 87

[Special Correspondent Vyacheslav Lavrentyev report from Bucharest]

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of citizens of the Romanian capital today went out onto the streets of the city to meet Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. They came in families, with flowers and greetings placards; they came as if for a holiday. And it is almost a festival of Soviet-Romanian friendship. In the days preceding the visit, I went to a major industrial enterprise in Bucharest and to the Institute for the Protection of Mother and Child. I had conversations with Romanian authors and actors, and everywhere I felt an attitude of friendliness toward our country.

Forty years of cooperation, based on shared aims and ideology, is a long time. The Romanians have a good knowledge of our history, of the culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union and are informed about the changes occuring in our country, the process of restructuring.

The official talks began today at the Palace of the State Council between Comrades Gorbachev and Ceausescu. They cover a broad range of questions concerning bilateral relations as well as international problems. Hopes for deepening our links and cooperation and for strengthening the traditional bonds of friendship between our countries and our peoples are being pinned on the visit here and the Soviet-Romanian talks at summit level.

Report on Ceausescu Speech

LD252023 Moscow TASS in English 2003 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Bucharest May 25 TASS -- "Your visit is a fresh and significant manifestation of Romanian-Soviet friendship and cooperation, a reflection of the good relations between our countries, parties and peoples, which have rich traditions of long standing," Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, has said.

Ceausescu made today a speech at a dinner in honour of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev, now on an official friendly visit to Romania.

"We are aware of the Soviet people's efforts to putting into life the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the party's latest plenary meetings on reorganization of Soviet society, development of democracy, all aspects of economic and social activities. We follow with interest the programme being put into life, and, as neighbours and friends, we wish you ever bigger successes on this road!"

"The changes that have taken place in the world and the existence of nuclear weapons and huge arsenals of other weapons of mass annihilation demand new mentality and a new approach to matters of war and peace.

"Such mentality and approach should be based on the reality according to which war with the use of nuclear weapons under the present-day conditions is unthinkable and will have neither winners nor losers. Such war will destroy the whole of mankind."

Romania has resolutely declared for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century, Ceausescu went on.

"Our country backs proposals for a separate examination of question of maximum-range nuclear missiles in Europe as a first step to removing all nuclear weapons from the continent and to their complete elimination. We also acclaim the Soviet proposals on shorter-range missiles. At the same time we believe that if it is necessary, acting in the spirit of the accords reached by us in Budapest at the conference of the socialist Warsaw Treaty member countries, to turn more resolutely to cutting conventional weapons.

"The European countries can and must play a more important role in the efforts for disarmament, security, trust and cooperation on the continent and throughout the world. We believe that it is necessary to do everything to end the Vienna meeting with the best possible results which would bring about real changes in favour of disarmament and strengthening confidence and cooperation on the continent."

"In line with actions to strengthen security and cooperation in Europe, Romania consistently advocates the transformation of the Balkan peninsula into a zone of peace and cooperation, a zone without nuclear and chemical weapons. We support the proposals that such zones be established in the centre and the north of Europe, and also in other regions of the world.

"Our country consistently advocates the global solution of underdevelopment problems, including the extremely huge foreign debt of developing countries. It stands for a new international economic order based on full equality and justice in inter-state relations, called upon to promote more rapid progress of all countries, particularly those lagging behind."

"We believe it is essential to enhance the role of the United Nations Organization, other international organizations in the solution of all these serious and complicated problems, democratization of inter-state relations, broad development of cooperation and consolidation of peace," said the Romanian leader.

In this connection he pointed out close cooperation between Romania and the Soviet Union at the United Nations and other international organizations and expressed confidence that this cooperation would continue strengthening in the future, and that together with other socialist states and progressive, peace forces of the whole world the USSR and Romania would be making an even greater contribution to the consolidation of the policy of disarmament, cooperation, independence and peace.

TV Report on Ceausescu Speech

LD261130 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1929 GMT 25 May 87

[From an unscheduled "Novosti" bulletin -- announcer-read]

[Excerpts] Comrades, we have only just received a report from Bucharest. Nicolae Ceausescu gave a dinner today in honor of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Comrade Medvedev and other officials were present at the dinner. Party and state figures of Romania were also present. Nicolae Ceausescu delivered a speech. He expressed the conviction that the visit to Romania by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and the talks that have begun will open new prospects for relations between the two countries and their parties and peoples, and will mark an important moment in strengthening Romanian-Soviet friendship and cooperation. Nicolae Ceausescu dwelt in detail on the country's social and economic development and noted the great interest in the republic in the process of restructuring under way in the USSR. We believe, continued Nicolae Ceausescu, that the achievements of Romania and the Soviet Union and of all countries that are building socialism are factors of the greatest significance for the growth of socialism's strength and prestige in the world. The Long-Term Program of Developing Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation Between Romania and the Soviet Union for the Period up to the Year 2000 opens broad prospects for expanding and diversifying the economic and the scientific-technical relations between our countries. We also believe, said Comrade Ceausescu, that opportunities exist for developing cooperation still further by implementing the programs agreed upon within the CEMA framework.

Touching on the international situation, Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that today, more than ever, there is a need for ever closer cooperation among all peoples, with the aim of halting the dangerous course toward confrontation and war, and with the aim of implementing disarmament and guaranteeing cooperation and peace. Romania has been and continues to be in favor of eliminating all nuclear weapons by the end of the century. Our country supports the proposals to consider separately the issues of medium-range missiles in Europe.

We also welcome the Soviet proposals on operational and tactical missiles. We believe that the United States and, of course, the NATO countries, should respond to these proposals in a constructive spirit. At the same time, we think it essential to move more resolutely toward a reduction in conventional weapons. On the basis of a national referendum, Romania last year unilaterally reduced its weapons, the number of its troops, and its military spending by 5 percent.

In conclusion, Nicolae Ceausescu expressed the conviction that that our countries will make an ever more substantial contribution to a powerful affirmation of the policy of disarmament, cooperation, independence, and peace.

A reply speech was given by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

The speeches by Comrades Ceausescu and Gorbachev were listened to with great attention and were greeted with prolonged applause. The texts of the speeches will be published in the press.

Gorbachev Dinner Speech

PM261051 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 87 p 2

[Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, at a 25 May dinner given in his honour in Bucharest by Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP general secretary, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Ceausescu,

Esteemed comrades,

The 1st day of our stay in the hospitable Romanian land is drawing to an end. From the 1st hours of our stay in Bucharest we could feel at atmosphere of hospitablity and friendliness. There is ground for satisfaction with the way the business side of the visit is proceeding. During our conversation today Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu and I have briefed each other on how things are going in our countries, how the decisions of the party congresses are being implemented. We have also discussed a number of topical international issues.

Quite understandably the main attention at the talks was devoted to the Soviet-Romanian cooperation in all of its diverse aspects.

The CPSU and the RCP are unanimous that over the past years a solid foundation has been laid for cooperation between our countries both in the field of material production and in the field of the superstructure. The Soviet-Romanian relations can successfully develop on that basis, acquiring an increasingly full-blooded character and contributing toward the resolution of the tasks confronting both our countries. This cooperation fully accords with the principles of the internationalist relations characteristic of the socialist states and their parties, which are guided by one world outlook, and work for common aims.

While positively evaluating what has been achieved, we and our Romanian friends, naturally, think first and foremost about where and how an improvement should be achieved, where and how a qualitative change in the mechanism of cooperation should be ensured and brought into line with the requirements of the times.

A number of areas can be singled out where we have made considerable headway, yet alongside them there are areas where progress has been, so to speak, mediocre or even poor. Meanwhile, today it is difficult to hope for considerable success through breakthroughs in separate directions. This can be achieved only by broadening ties along the entire front.

To be specific, this concerns, for example, the fuller study and use of each other's experience, the broadening of contacts between party organizations and work collectives, deepening ideological cooperation and exchange of spiritual and cultural values as a whole.

Impressive progress has lately manifested itself in the field of economic cooperation. In the current 5-year plan period it will grow almost 80 percent -- such a pace is not frequently observed in world practices. But this is not the limit.

Yet with all the significance of the quantitative indicators, the qualitative criteria are assuming an increasingly growing role today. Since in the final analysis the point is not simply to exchange goods, the effectiveness of cooperation in the present-day conditions is increasingly determined by the fact whether it leads to the output of products of a higher class, to mastering progressive technology -- in a word, to progress in science and technology. Hence specialization in production and coproduction, the pooling of the material and intellectual resources aimed at a sharp acceleration of the whole production process, have become the leading trend in the field of economic cooperation.

It must be admitted that our countries are lagging somewhat in that respect, and now our task is to make up for time lost. The leaders of the fraternal countries are unanimous on that score. This is the key in which the work is done to deepen the whole integration process within the CEMA framework. It is precisely in that area that we hope to ensure considerable progress and enhance the effectiveness of Soviet-Romanian cooperation.

The first steps have already been made: It has been agreed to establish direct production ties between a number of industrial plants, and projects to set up joint ventures are also under discussion. But we are ready to go even farther, particularly toward cooperation in the field of science and technology. There is nothing more fruitful and advantageous today than joint work by scientists, designers, and planners in the crucial and most advanced areas of progress in science and technology.

In a word, there is every opportunity to broaden cooperation and specialization, to concentrate efforts. There is, as has again been reaffirmed, the corresponding political will. The point now is organization.

Now a few words about international affairs. For us, as for the leadership of Romania and of the other socialist states, the paramount issue is how to stop the arms race and prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

The arms race is becoming an increasingly heavy and unbearable burden on the peoples of almost all the countries and continents. But the glimmers of hope for speedy disarmament which appeared after Geneva and Reykjavik time and again alternate with waves of fear of a buildup of the weapons arsenal, which is a threat to humanity's very existence. The rapid growth of military spending diverts enormous resources, hampers economic and social progress.

Humanity is faced with many a burning problem which could be resolved or at least whose solution we could tackle jointly, if we succeed in ending the arms race. Among these problems are eradication of illiteracy and stamping out of diseases, protection of the environment and harnessing new energy sources.

The only feasible and sensible approach to the global problems of the present is expressed in the now well known and comprehensive formula: disarmament and development. It epitomizes new political thinking, which rejects militarism and the cult of violence in the international arena and is directed towards cooperation and mutual assistance in the present-day interdependent world.

The pursuit of the phantom of military superiority has continued for more than 40 years now. We believe it is clear to everyone that neither of the sides is capable of gaining advantage [pereves] over the other. Hoping to reach such an advantage is tantamount to harboring illusions, and a policy based on illusions never did any good.

We hope that this indisputable truth will, at last, be realized in Washington and in the capitals of other states of the North Atlantic Alliance. Then the possibility will open up to make the first real steps on the way towards disarmament, will give humanity a chance to sigh with relief.

The Soviet Union, Romania, and the other Warsaw Treaty member states have covered probably much more than their half of the way for the sake of attaining that aim. Lying on the negotiating table before our Western partners are valuable proposals on the entire -- if we may say so -- "quintette" of modern weapons: strategic nuclear weapons, medium-range missiles, operational and tactical missiles, chemical weapons, and conventional weapons.

It goes without saying that in preparing these proposals the security interests of all the allied socialist countries were most carefully considered. At the same time it is also easy to see in them the wish to meet the other side as much as possible, to take into consideration its wishes and interests. This is particularly evident on the example of medium-range missiles in Europe.

We do not lose hope that common sense will prevail among the NATO member countries, and that use will be made of the truly unique chance for disarmament, that the settlement of the problem of medium-range missiles will be followed by some kind of a chain reaction, as a result of which Europe will gradually cease to be the venue of the concentration of the most monstrous amount of weapons in mankind's history. And this, in its turn, will give an impetus to a broad development of cooperation on the continent, from which all European nations -- and not only European nations -- would gain.

I wish to stress that the Soviet Union and Romania have a common approach to these burning problems. We value the contribution of our Romanian comrades to the joint efforts made by the socialist countries for strengthening their security and preserving peace, we will further closely cooperate on these issues.

May the fruitful Soviet-Romanian cooperation further develop, the interaction of our socialist states deepen, and the friendship of our peoples strengthen.

M.S. Gorbachev pronounced a toast in honor of the further deepening of Soviet-Romanian friendship and cooperation, which are in line with the interests of peace and socialism, and in honor of N. Ceausescu and his wife.

CAPTAIN DESCRIBES TANKER EXPLOSION CIRCUMSTANCES

LD251738 Moscow TASS in English 1653 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Kuwait May 25 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Valeriy Doroshenko:

Under an agreement with Kuwait on the charter of three Soviet tankers, the "Marshal Chuykov," whose home port is Novorossiyka received an order from the charterers to arrive at the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi in the morning on May 17 for being loaded with oil products, the TASS correspondent was told by the ship's Captain Vyacheslav Mordvintsev.

Knowing about the so-called "tanker war" in the Persian Gulf, we prepared for that voyage carefully and seriously. Each of the 38 crew members knew thoroughly what he was to do in the event of an emergency situation.

On May 16 our tanks were inspected in the "gate" of the Persian Gulf at the anchorage in Khawr Fakkan (The United Arab Emirates), and in the early hours of May 17 the ship entered the deep water fairway leading to the port of Al-Ahmadi. [sentence as received] A powerful blast in the starboard bow of the ship stopped the tanker's movement. The ship's instruments registered that the blast occurred at 00:41 minutes of the local time on May 17. Water rushed into the hole formed by the blast with an area of nearly 40 square metres. Three of the ship's compartments were flooded up to the waterline. The emergency fire pump proved to be under water, two tanks with a stock of diesel fuel were destroyed, electric wiring and bulkheads were damaged.

There were no casualties among the crew members. A minute after the blast every crew member was in the place assigned to him. Everybody acted efficiently and in a good coordination.

A floating mine? This is possible. Yet this remains only an assumption. The final conclusion will be drawn only after the ship is examined in a dock and after the fragments of the object which exploded are studied by experts.

At the same time the seamen on duty drew attention to the fact that nearly an hour before the explosion, another tanker proceeded in the narrow corridor of the fairway and evaded hitting the explosive object. Thus, if it was a mine, it could have been planted in the way of the "Marshal Chuykov" shortly before the explosion. The preliminary inspection of the hole, which is just under the ship's top light has shown that it is in the form of a cone with its top inside the tanker

At 2:20 a.m., the seamen on duty spotted first by means of a radar and then visually by its sidelights, a speed boat without identification marks, which approached the tanker to a distance of roughly 2.5 miles, watched it for some time, then left without inquiring whether we needed any help.

In the early hours Kuwaiti launches approached the tanker. And the ship arrived at the port of destination at low speed accompanied by the launches. At the port the Soviet ship was taken good care of by the hosts.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA CITES REASON FOR STARK TRAGEDY

LD211618 Moscow TASS in English 1523 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS -- The incident in the Persian Gulf involving the USS "Stark", in which 37 crew members were killed, makes it necessary, for the Americans in the first place, to take a critical look at their own policies in the Middle and Near East, the daily SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes today. The main attributes of this policy are the backing of Zionist aggression, interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries and deliberate attempts to foment armed conflicts which split the unity of states and the peoples in the region. (The latest example was provided by the noisy "Irangate" affair.)

The sailors who burnt alive on board the blazing ship were not the first victims of this baneful course which had already claimed the lives of 241 American marines in Beirut and caused the suffering of American hostages in Lebanon...

"It's a tragedy that must never be repeated," President Reagan said. Everyone agrees with such an assessment, but different views are held on the reasons behind it. It is exactly the presence of American ships in the Persian Gulf that has lead to the tragedy, a member of the House of Representatives, Robert Torricelli, believes.

There is another aspect to the story with the "Stark" which is worth dwelling upon. The recent developments were forecasted long ago by more far-seeing observers who were following the Iran-Iraq conflict. They have warned that the war could splash out of the battlefield itself and take on an international aspect. The "Stark" is not the first and hardly the last foreign ship to be damaged as a result of the hostilities in the Gulf.

"Is there any need," the newspaper notes, "to say what dangers the further escalation of the senseless bloody Iran-Iraq conflict can bring? In the Pentagon 'scenarios' of the third world war the Persian Gulf often plays the role of fuse."

IRAN'S 'HYPOCRITICAL' STANCE ON U.S. GULF ROLE HIT

NC260823 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 24 May 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Soviet press is once again highlighting reports on the Persian Gulf and the exacerbation of the situation there. However, this is not a matter of preventing the rekindling of the tanker war in which the Soviet ships Ivan Koroteyev and Marshal Chuykov were damaged; it is a matter of identifying the intensification of a threat targeted at ship navigation, the neighboring Arab countries, and at international security in general because of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The threat of the internationalization of the conflict is very obvious because, immediately after Iraq's air attack on the U.S. warship Stark, the United States placed its naval military forces in the Persian Gulf on full alert, threatening to increase its already considerable military presence in the area. Israel, the U.S. ally in the Near East, also became involved, and news agencies report that remarks are being heard in Israel to the effect that "we have waited long enough and the time for (?action) has come."

This reconfirms that the tragedy of the Iran-Iraq war primarily benefits Tel Aviv and Washington. Tel Aviv and Washington are certainly not indifferent to happenings in the Persian Gulf. In fact, their interest is so great that the U.S. Administration felt neither fear over the political scandal nor concern about harshly trampling on U.S. and international laws when it organized the secret delivery of arms to Iran with Israel's participation. The belief by many observers and experts that these weapons were the main reason for Iran's more quarrelsome attitude is completely reasonable.

In view of this reality, and especially after revelations of secret collusions with the great satan and the Zionists, Tehran voices its propagandistic and hypocritical opposition to an increased U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf. Now it is primarily Iran that is rejecting mediation efforts by various governments and international organizations, refusing to study Iraq's proposals for a respectable and just peace treaty, thus preventing a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

Perhaps the noisy anti-Soviet commotion begun by the Iranian officials is linked to this. After they destroy others' respect for them by dealing with those whom they so pitilessly and loudly cursed, they try to regain their respect by casting idiotic accusations against our country.

However, these efforts cannot hide the nature of reality. Since the very beginning of the conflict, the Soviet Union has held that this war is not in the best interests of the Iranian and Iraqi nations. The Soviet Union has always called for an immediate halt to the war, irrespective of the course of its events. Although the problems and indifferences between Tehran and Baghdad are complicated and serious, the Soviet public does not see any irremovable obstacles to halting the war and establishing peace in the region. The Soviet Union is sincerely sympathetic toward the Iranian and Iraqi peoples, and its stand does not stem from the hope of momentary gains. Rather, it is based on a principled policy of eliminating regional hotbeds and preventing world conflicts without foreign intervention and through talks which consider both sides' legal rights. Especially because of this, the Soviet Government assists any kind of respectable and constructive effort to resolve the Iran-Iraq conflict peacefully.

KATUSHEV HOLDS COOPERATION TALKS IN LIBYA

LD221319 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general headline: "Official Reports"]

[Text] K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is in Tripoli on a visit at the head of a Soviet Government delegation, was received 20 May by 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan Higher People's Committee. During the conversation, which proceeded in the spirit of the traditional relations of friendship between the two countries, the sides discussed issues relating to the further development of all-around cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by P.S. Akopov, USSR ambassador to Libya.

ADAMISHIN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE ON AFRICA

LD221532 Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS -- Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, has stated that the Soviet Union's approach to Africa is an integral part of its overall foreign policy concept, which is a concept of new thinking, of finding a way out of deadlock situations of a nuclear-space age which seem to be impassable with a view to building stage by stage a nuclear-free and non-violent world.

Speaking today at a press conference devoted to the day of the liberation of Africa, he said that the aims pursued by the Soviet Union in that region included cooperation and not confrontation, the elimination of hotbeds of tension and not their kindling, as well as respect for the right of every nation to choose its way of development and the right to defend this choice.

A. Adamishin pointed out that the new phenomena that emerged in all the spheres of life of Soviet society which, taken together, formed the process of the reorganization, affected the African direction of Soviet foreign policy. [sentence as received] The best words to describe it are a realistic approach and dynamism.

The USSR is ready to develop mutually advantageous cooperation with all the African countries. This cooperation is not directed against third countries. Realism includes the understanding of the fact that in the present day world in which we all depend on each other the solution of development problems, which are esspecially acute in Africa, is inseparably connected with the discontinuation of the arms race, with the need for preventing its spreading to outer space, for stopping conflicts consuming considerable resources in Africa.

According to A. Adamishin, there are some invariable principles that the USSR is guided by in its relations with African countries, the same principles to which the USSR has adhered throughout all the 70 years of its existence. These include a respectful attitude, equality, sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The USSR will continue to adhere to these principles in the future.

The spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry pointed out the need for resolving the most acute problems connected with the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and the immediate granting of independence to Namibia. He said that the USSR would continue to render assistance to the African National Congress of South Africa, to SWAPO and "Frontline" Countries, acting in full conformity with provisions of the U.N. Charter and resolutions of that organization.

A. Adamishin said that the Soviet Government had decided to donate 65 million roubles to the African foundation set up by participants in the Non-Aligned Movement, including the rendering of free assistance to "Frontline" Countries in the creation of three professional centres. Apart from it, in the 1987-1990 period the USSR is ready to receive annually 1,100 citizens from those countries and representatives of ANC and SWAPO to be trained in Soviet higher educational establishments and to bear all the expenses involved.

The Soviet Union emphatically supports the demands of African countries and of non-aligned countries in general on the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, the USSR deputy minister of foreign relations said. [paragraph continues]

These demands are consonant with the Soviet proposal on international economic security as a basic element of the overall system of international security. The USSR solidarizes with the intention of Africans to prevent another colonization of the continent, this time an economic one.

Assails Israel, RSA

LD221654 Moscow TASS in English 1508 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS -- Collaboration between Israel and the Republic of South Africa in the nuclear area poses a threat to peace and security not only in the African continent and the Middle East, but also all over the world, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin said. Answering questions from reporters during a news conference here today, he noted that the Soviet Union's attitude to collaboration of this kind is absolutely negative.

The tendency to create a strategic alliance is now clearly manifesting itself in relations between Israel and the Republic of South Africa, Director of the Institute of Africa of the USSR Academy of Sciences Anatoliy Gromyko said at the press conference. The brazenness with which the South African racists act in the region is largely explained by the influence which Israel exerts on Pretoria's policy, he said. There is information that Tel Aviv promotes the growth of nuclear aspirations of the apartheid regime. This is a very dangerous phenomenon, the Soviet scientist said.

Scores U.S. Activity in Zaire

LD221650 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS -- The Soviet Union cannot remain indifferent to the United States efforts to reactivate its military base in Zaire, said USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin. Answering a question during a news conference held here today, he said the USSR will use ways of influence at its disposal to express its sharply negative attitude to the intensification of the United States military activity in the heartland of Africa and to the creation of a possible new seat of tension there.

The United States intensifying military activity in Africa cannot but cause the Soviet Union's concern, the Soviet spokesman said.

GROMYKO RECEIVES YOUNG MEXICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

LD221432 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko received in the Kremlin today a delegation of young Mexican parliamentarians, staying in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the youth organisations committee of the USSR.

The members of the delegation turned over to Andrey Gromyko a message of peace from the Mexican youth addressed to General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev. The guests also presented the appeal to peoples and parliamentarians of the world that was drawn up by young Mexican parliamentarians. The appeal advances the proposal for the holding of an international meeting of young parliamentarians next year.

It was noted that a group of young deputies of the national Congress of Mexico is making a visit with a mission of peace to the USSR and to the USA to hold meetings with parliamentarians of those countries so as to seek by joint efforts the roads to nuclear disarmament.

Andrey Gromyko positively assessed the Mexican initiative and emphasized that the participation of youth in the quest of the solutions to problems which agitate entire humanity can make an international dialogue still more fruitful.

Questions of the activity for the sake of ensuring international peace held a cardinal place in the further conversation.

Andrey Gromyko noted that only if the struggle for peace becomes universal can it be successful in the present-day conditions. The USSR exerts every effort to ensure nuclear weapons free future for the whole world. He welcomes any steps in this direction by other countries, parties, organisations or segments of the population. The Soviet side emphasized that the participation of youth in the struggle for peace, for averting the threat of nuclear catastrophe is of huge importance.

The Mexican representatives declared positively about the Soviet peace initiatives set out in the statements of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev. They appraised the Soviet Union's approach to questions of disarmament as a constructive one which wins over an ever greater number of supporters. The Mexicans strongly approved of the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions which lasted for a year and a half.

[Moscow Television Service in Russian in its "Vremya" program at 1700 GMT on 22 May carries a 2-minute report on Gromyko receiving a delegation of young parliamentarians from Mexico. The "Vremya" report notes that the meeting was attended by "Comrades Demichev; Mironenko, Komsomol first secretary; and Horacio Flores de la Pena, the Mexican ambassador to the USSR."]

IZVESTIYA DETAILS UPCOMING SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

PM251336 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 May 87 Morning Edition p 1

["USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Convocation of the USSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves:

To convene the 7th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation, on 29 June 1987 in the city of Moscow.

Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium
A. Gromyko.

Secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium
T. Menteshashvili.

Moscow, Kremlin, 20 May 1987.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium announces that it is proposed to submit the following questions for the examination of the 7th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation:

1. On the restructuring of the management of the national economy at the present stage of the country's economic development.

2. On the draft USSR Law on Nationwide Discussion of Important Questions of State Life.

3. On the draft USSR Law on the Procedure for Complaints to the Court Concerning Unlawful Actions by Officials Flouting Citizens' Rights.

4. On the ratification of USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees.

MOSCOW PAPER VIEWS LEGISLATION PROGRAM

PM251338 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 May 87 p 3

[V. Telegin article under the rubric "Talking About the Restructuring": "Preparing New Laws"]

[Text] The Law on Individual Labor Activity came into force in our country at the beginning of May. It was among the first in a whole series of new legislative acts now being drafted which are called upon not only legally to enshrine the changes taking place in our country in the course of the restructuring, but also to create a legal basis for the further development of these processes in depth and extent, APN's correspondent writes.

The preparation of new laws is taking place in accordance with the plan adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet in the middle of last year for the next 5 years. [paragraph continues]

It consists of 38 points, grouped into 8 sections. Their content can be provisionally (since, in the various sections, they constantly "overlap," so to speak) divided into three major groups: legislative decisions on the further development of democracy, socialist self-management, and citizens' rights and freedoms, a series of laws on improving the economic machinery and management of the national economy; and new legal norms in connection with questions of social development. Eighty percent of all these developments are due to be implemented in the first 2 years, so the documents adopted on their basis can be "incorporated" fairly rapidly in the process of restructuring and can actively promote it.

What new things should these laws bring into our life? Perhaps the most important in the first group will be the law on the procedure for nationwide discussion and voting on the most important questions of the country's life, as well as the discussion by the population of the drafts for all the most important decisions of the local soviets (this is to be drafted this year). The law will legally enshrine and make compulsory the practice which has become established of submitting to the verdict of the public resolutions being prepared by organs of state power at all levels, it will strengthen the population's direct monitoring of these organs' work, and, according to its authors' intentions, it will help step up citizens' participation in the drafting and adoption of state decisions.

It is also planned to prepare a special law on the press and information. This is because the tasks of restructuring and acceleration presuppose a fundamentally new level of work by the mass media and the enhancement of their role in ensuring wide mass media and the enhancement of their role in ensuring wide openness and developing criticism, and as a result, once again, in stepping up the population's social activeness. The law is intended to widen the creative autonomy of journalists, make access to information more simple for them, and increase the responsibility of officials for making reliable information available.

The increased role of public organizations -- the trade unions, Komsomol, creative unions, and voluntary societies -- in the system of Soviet socialist self-management should be reflected in several legislative acts. They will deal first and foremost with widening the range of questions which can be resolved by state organs only with the participation or preliminary consent of interest public organizations, and also granting them the right to suspend the implementation of managment decisions in a number of cases. Alongside the expansion of the rights of citizens and their organizations, at the same time legal protection of these rights will be strengthened. In this regard, in particular, a law on the procedure for lodging complaints to the court about the actions of officials flouting the citizen's rights is being prepared.

All the same, the second group of draft laws in the new plan is the more extensive -- the group concerned with improving the economic machinery and the management of the national economy (in all they cover some 60 percent of all the planned developments). The next in line is the Law on Socialist Enterprises (Associations): Its draft has already been published and is now being widely discussed in the country. It is aimed first and foremost at enhancing the quality of their output and the workers' attitude toward their labor, and defining and introducing production democracy norms.

As for the means of achieving these goals, they were found in the course of an experiment which took place in a number of sectors of our national economy. They are full economic accountability, financial viability and self-financing of enterprises, self-management by labor collectives, including the appointment of leaders by election at all levels, and the direct dependence of their income on the efficiency of work. [paragraph continues]

The new law, as well as other legislative acts in this group (the provisions on ministries, on USSR state committees, on intersectorial associations, and so forth), are called upon to ensure the consistent application of such methods on the basis of concrete legal norms, and also to create a legal machinery for protecting enterprises' rights and ensuring their responsibility for fulfilling their commitments.

The third group of draft laws is aimed at improving the social sphere. This will include changes in the pension system and housing legislation -- for instance, differentiated apartment rents according to the degree of comfort of apartments will evidently be introduced.

Special commissions have been set up to draft laws, incorporating lawyers, representatives of state committees, ministries, and public organizations, and USSR Supreme Soviet deputies. On the completion of this work the drafts for the most important laws will be submitted for broad public discussion so as to take consider all the population's most important proposals and wishes.

BUTENKO ON STALIN ERA, SOCIALISM, 'NEW MAN'

PM201451 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 87 p 3

[Interview with Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Anatoliy Butenko, head of a department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System, by APN correspondent Albert Sirotkin under the rubric: "Conversations about Restructuring": "In the Light of Openness" -- place and date of interview not given, passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] My interlocutor is Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Anatoliy Butenko, head of a department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System and professor at Moscow State University. Our conversation is devoted to the changes currently taking place in our society and to the social problems affecting us today.

[Butenko] Unquestionably, the 27th CPSU Congress has deeply affected the processes of renewal which are currently taking place in our society. I would like to highlight two aspects today, namely how objectively did the congress assess the past period (without this, real progress is impossible) and what has been achieved to date in the light of this assessment. This is all the more important since the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum again focused its attention on our past development and elaborated assessments which in some cases go further than those drawn up at the congress.

Life has forced us to return to the past because so far the restructuring is proceeding more slowly than is desirable. It has now been revealed that restructuring is coming up against obstacles which had either not been mentioned earlier, or had been partly or completely ignored, or had not been fully identified.

We need to return to the past not to wallow in it but because without the accurate and full knowledge of the mistakes and shortcomings of this period we will not be able to correctly resolve the set tasks now or in the future. Life itself forces us to dig more deeply in analyzing the path we have travelled.

[Sirotkin] What new aspects did the January plenum introduce in this respect?

[Butenko] I would like to point out three elements previously lacking in party documents. First, there was no recognition of the fact that crisis situations had begun to build up in Soviet society. This is an important admission which makes it possible to analyze the mistakes and shortcomings of the past at greater depth and to draw the necessary conclusions. In the past there were merely references to adverse trends, negative phenomena, or deformations of socialism.

Second, in the course of the past development a braking mechanism had arisen. Its roots go back to serious shortcomings in the functioning of the institutions of socialist democracy, to obsolete political and theoretical principles which were sometimes out of touch with the realities, and to the conservative mechanism of management. All this facilitated the buildup of negative and crisis phenomena.

Third, there is a direct connection between many of the former mistakes and the braking mechanism which has developed and the phenomena of the thirties and forties which took place in conditions of Stalin's personality cult. Therefore even after the 27th congress, the party again had to make an objective analysis of this period at the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum to get to the bottom of the problems currently affecting us. I would go even further. I believe the restructuring is so far proceeding slowly because the very forces which prevented the decisions of the 20th CPSU Congress (1956) which debunked and condemned the personality cult from being fully implemented have in fact disrupted the process of the renewal of our life, they are opposed to change, and try to thwart it even now. Unless we fully expose the nature and positions of these forces and do battle with them, restructuring will proceed in fits and starts, and the process of change may even be reversed. This aspect was emphasized by the CPSU January plenum and I consider it extremely important.

[Sirotkin] How did the crisis phenomena in Soviet society manifest themselves?

[Butenko] Development slowed down and this was reflected in a falling economic growth rate (the lowest indicator being 2.6 percent in 1982), the potential for improving the population's living standards diminished, and a number of acute problems, including the food and energy problem, arose, placing society in a complex situation. Problems connected with the violation of the principle of distribution according to labor and a number of other socialist principles were ignored.

A number of negative factors, phenomena, and deviations from the principles of socialism and their betrayal, which occurred in the thirties and forties and took root, constituted elements of the braking mechanism which however, for various reasons, did not strongly manifest themselves at the time. That happened in the sixties and seventies.

Today it is important to examine the whole history of the Soviet state and to clarify where, how, and why the various negative phenomena, distortions, or deformations of the society's economic and political organization arose which made it impossible for socialism's potential to fully unfold. It is necessary to clarify all this so that it can never repeat itself.

Reexamining various aspects of Soviet socialist management, we note that not everything in our country was done in socialist fashion and that the principles, norms, an mechanisms applied were not always socialist in essence. When people ask what is the main purpose of restructuring the shortest and most succinct answer is more /more socialism, more democracy!../

[Sirotkin] Where does the essence of the braking mechanism lie?

[Butenko] The braking mechanism developed from economic, political, social, and ideological forms, phenomena, and management levers and devices which prevented the potential of socialism from fully unfolding and hampered the successful utilization of its advantages. A significant role in this mechanism is played by erroneous theoretical concepts and the "do-nothing" mentality.

Where did all this come from?

It seems to me that although this is something that Marx, Engels, and Lenin warned about, it developed during the subsequent simplified interpretation of the building of socialism: /for the working class which has come to power, bureaucracy represents an enormous danger./ The founders of scientific socialism explained this as follows: For a certain period during the transition from the old society to the new society, the working class will need the state. The state, together with its organs, has a tendency to gradually and increasingly dissociate itself from society, to become an increasingly independent force threatening to place its interests above those of society. Marx and Engels therefore emphasized: To protect the working class and the working people from this danger /it is necessary from the first steps of the new society to involve the working people in administration, to develop their self-management./ Only in this way is it possible to prevent the development of a bureaucratic state system.

Lenin in turn pointed out the danger of bureaucracy in light of practical developments of the initial stage of building socialism. The danger of the development of bureaucracy was mentioned as early as 1919 in the second program adopted by the eighth party congress. Lenin noted that as time went on, an ever more active struggle would have to be waged against this danger. The task was set but is implementation was not completed.

Just like Marx and Engels, Lenin believed that the danger of bureaucracy will persist as long as the division between administrative and executive functions exist, as long as there are rulers and ruled, that is, right up to the full establishment of social self-government when the state will disappear.

However, these ideas and thoughts of Lenin's were committed to oblivion by Stalin who preferred to rule by administrative-voluntarist methods conducive to the creation of the most favorable conditions for the development of bureaucracy. Naturally, no measures to develop self-management were implemented. Furthermore, in 1939 Stalin replaced the idea of the founders of Marxism that the working class needs a state that will wither away with the idea of the preservation of the state right up to communism, and self-management was, from a certain time, declared to be a revisionist fabrication. Power was entirely concentrated in the hands of the bureaucratic administrative apparatus which Stalin created. From this viewpoint the processes and repressions of the thirties look like the completion of the establishment of Stalinist power which crushed those who defended the system administration which existed prior to the establishment of the personality cult and was based on Leninist ideas and traditions.

The 20th CPSU Congress put the fear of death into the bureaucracy but later its active forces rallied and managed to halt the process of the cleansing of society of bureaucracy and other negative features. Today, as well, some people are frightened by the expansion of self-management, the election of leaders, openness in the adoption of decisions, control by the masses, that is by everything placing them under the scrutiny of the masses and restricts and limits their administrative functions. After all it was Marx, long ago, who aptly noted that one of the main features of bureaucrats' work was secrecy, they do not like openness in the exercise of power and regard it as a betrayal of their interests. We see again today that Bureaucracy represents the main social force of the braking mechanism.

Lenin told people openly -- we do not conceal the evil of bureaucracy, we speak about it openly to facilitate its eradication. But as long as there is a state whose functions are carried out by specific organs and by people working in these organs there is the possibility of their dissociation from the masses and taking action in pursuit of their own selfish interests. Not every leading state or party administration worker is a bureaucrat, of course. Only a person who is using his official administrative functions for personal aims or who is working badly and thus hampering the development of society is a bureaucrat. He, who in concert with others, deliberately hampers society's progress is an arch-bureaucrat.

Peremptory orders, administrative injunctions, the dissemination of paper circulars -- these are typical attributes of the work of bureaucracy which is afraid of direct contracts with the masses aware that they might reveal its incompetence, ignorance of the working people's needs, and inability or unwillingness to honestly discharge its duties.

Since the braking mechanism is the product of past conditions we are forced to return to these conditions. After all, it was in these conditions that the said forms of production management developed, that workers were excluded from the management of enterprises and turned into mere executors of labor functions, that the working people suddenly found themselves outside the mechanism of the distribution of the production product and income and were removed from real power although power was wielded in their name. Nevertheless, even in these conditions people were working selflessly. The Soviet people notched up great achievements in the creation of the new society and socialism withstood the most difficult test of strength in the battle against fascism. However the successful development was achieved only at a very high price and at the cost of negative phenomena and flaws which the new system could have done without and which did a great deal to prevent socialism from fully developing its potential.

The Central Committee of our party openly accepted responsibility for the mistakes of the sixties and the seventies. Strong self-criticism of the kind that rang out at the January plenum had never been seen in party documents. The documents stated that the CPSU Central Committee and the country's leadership failed to ensure the correct development of the country because of subjective reasons, that is by dint of personal failings. Such a frank admission of the errors committed is much better, more honest, and more dignified than their suppression. Lenin emphasized that the party's attitude to its mistakes is a most important criterion of its maturity.

[Sirotkin] What else could you single out in the process of the renewal of the Soviet society which is under way?

[Butenko] An important role will, of course, be played by the planned reform of the electoral system. It is also necessary to mention the broad openness, criticism, and self-criticism which has unfolded in the news media, and the critical attitude of the working people themselves to the way we used to live and still live and work. This criticism applies not just to the negative aspects in our development which have and still existed. Many obsolete methods of work of ministers and other senior officials including party leaders are being criticized, especially since in a number of oblasts and republics there were instances of leaders' degradation and since it will take quite some time to overcome the consequences of this.

We are now, as it were, learning anew to utilize criticism and self-criticism -- these powerful levers of the development of socialism. They will come into particularly wide use when the Law on the State Enterprise comes into force and self-management is firmly established. It will be necessary then to be prepared to accept that not everything will be correctly tackled by the working people straight away. It will be necessary, especially on the part of specialists and competent people, to summon up the courage and criticize specific decisions even if they are supported by the majority and to defend one's stance with well-reasoned arguments. On the other hand, the masses themselves will have to adopt a self-critical attitude to their decisions and possible mistakes, to what was proposed and what has been done. If the result is not what had been expected, it will be necessary to treat this in a matter-of-fact fashion, to abandon an incorrect decision and adopt another, better one.

[Sirotkin] Much interest in our country and abroad has been attracted by the Law on Individual Labor Activity. Is this law not a return to capitalism, to private property to some extent?

[Butenko] Unfortunately, the building of socialism was subjected to pseudorevolutionary methods during certain periods of our history when under the guise of radical transformations the social ground was churned up to such an extent that it the end many people have forgotten how to work in earnest. Something present in all social formations was devalued -- man's desire for useful labor and an honest wage, and pride in the results of his work. The incentives and motives encouraging people to work efficiently were interfered with to such an extent that many people lost interest in working better.

In my view this is the most burdensome legacy inherited by Soviet society to date. Many people have stopped believing that it is possible to work better and earn correspondingly more. After all, sluggards, loudmouths, and incompetent officials were often better paid and lived better than honest, modest workers.

Various incentives and methods are now being used at our enterprises to encourage everyone to work in earnest. However, more radical measures can be used to accelerate this process. In cases where the state cannot fulfill certain functions in the volume desired, it is appropriate to permit individual labor activity which mobilizes man's entire potential. We must teach all people to work more energetically and with greater initiative by stimulating all individual and collective labor and placing private initiative in the framework of the socialist state in the service of society's interests.

The danger of reviving private ownership tendencies does exist, of course. In a socialist state, however, it is always possible to adopt whatever measures are necessary.

[Sirotkin] How is the problem of the education of the new man to be resolved in conditions of restructuring?

[Butenko] In the relatively recent past much has been said and written about Soviet man allegedly being virtually the man of the communist society and about the imminent prospect of the appearance in our society of the comprehensively developed individual. Of course, in their majority Soviet people are worthy of their time. However, gradually we have become aware that alongside honest, positive people there are more and more bribe-takers, embezzlers, speculators, swindlers, drunkards, and even drug addicts and other worthless people who should not really exist in our society.

This seemed strange to many people but there is nothing strange about it. Deviations from the principles of socialism in the economy and in politics were bound to lead to this. Statements about the new communist man were based on abstract terms which had nothing in common with life. It was believed that this was what the ideal should be like, yet right next to us in real life embezzlers and other negative elements began appearing. However, we tried to ignore this since it was at variance with the theory. As the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum noted, the world of day-to-day realities and the world of ostensible well-being diverged more and more.

In my view the new man can develop only as a result of the enrichment of his own experience in the new situation. No lectures, prophesies, or exhortations on the lines of "This is what you should be like!," "Be a Thrifty Manager!," "Do not steal!" will be of any use until people are placed in conditions where they really feel in control.

What is needed is simply a certain amount of time for people to find their bearings in the new conditions, to acquire independence, responsibility, managerial qualities, to stop being afraid of peremptory orders, to begin to feel truly free to deal with social matters. Their horizon will then be wide, their view of life different, and their thinking and mentality will be new.

RESTRICTIONS LIFTED FROM 'LARGE NUMBER' OF ARCHIVES

LD241246 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 24 May 87

[Text] Restrictions have been lifted from a large number of archives in the Soviet Union to promote openness. The Ministry of Culture has made its archives available to the public almost fully; the USSR State Bank, about one-half; and the National Planning Committee one-third. Restrictions have been lifted from over 240,000 files, including the Ministries of Civil Aviation and the Merchant Marine. The Soviet Ministry for the Interior intends to publish information on crime and on action against it The Foreign Ministry has also made it easier for experts to have access to its archives.

CSA RELEASES JAN-APR INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE FIGURES

PM221231 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 21, May 87 (Signed to Press 14 May 87) p 2

[Unattributed "USSR Central Statistical Administration Report": "On Industry's Work in January-April 1987" -- passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] The EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA editorial office has received a USSR Central Statistical Administration report on the results of industry's work in January-April 1987.

Measures to catch up with the lag that was allowed to build up in the first few months of the year continued to be implemented in April this year. Output growth in comparison with April 1986 was higher than planned and amounted to 5.8 percent in terms of the plan base and 3.6 percent in terms of the actual level achieved.

In terms of the overall results of work in January-April this year, compared with the corresponding period of last year, the total volume of industrial output increased by 4.9 percent in terms of the plan base and 2.8 percent in terms of the actual level achieved. On the basis of plan calculations, the growth planned for this period had been set at 5.2 percent (in terms of the plan base) and 3.2 percent (in terms of the actual level achieved).

The output sales plan taking delivery commitments into account was fulfilled 98.3 percent.

The rate of output volume growth in January-April 1987 by national economic complexes and union republics is as follows (in percentages):

	Jan-Apr 1987 Plan as percentage of		Jan-Apr 1987 Actual as percentage of	
	Jan-Apr 1986 plan	Jan-Apr 1986 actual	Jan-Apr 1986 plan	Jan-Apr 1986 actual
Fuel and energy complex	3.1	1.7	4.7	3.3
Metallurgical complex	2.5	0.4	3.5	1.3
Machine building complex	7.0	4.9	3.8	1.7
Chemical industry and timber complex	4.4	2.2	4.8	2.5
Agro-industrial complex	4.7	1.1	7.0	3.3
Construction industry complex -- USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry	3.3	1.3	3.9	1.8

RSFSR	4.2	2.1	5.0	2.8
Ukrainian SSR	4.4	1.9	4.4	1.8
Belorussian SSR	6.6	3.8	8.5	5.7
Uzbek SSR	3.1	-0.4	4.7	1.1
Kazakh SSR	4.8	1.5	6.4	3.0
Georgian SSR	2.7	0.3	4.0	1.6
Azerbaijan SSR	4.3	2.4	6.1	4.1
Lithuanian SSR	5.7	3.3	6.4	4.1
Moldavian SSR	9.7	5.8	10.7	6.7
Latvian SSR	3.4	2.1	2.7	1.4
Kirghiz SSR	-0.2	-2.9	1.4	-1.3
Tajik SSR	3.8	0.1	6.2	2.4
Armenian SSR	5.2	2.4	7.0	4.1
Turkmen SSR	4.4	-0.4	6.7	1.8
Estonian SSR	3.6	1.2	5.2	2.8

/The fuel and energy complex/ met the targets for the extraction of the main types of fuel and for electricity production as a whole:

	Produced in Jan-Apr 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment		Jan-Apr 1987 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
		Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987	
Electricity, billion kilowatt-hours	590	101	100.7	104
Oil (including gas condensate), million metric tons	204	101	100.8	103
Gas, billion cubic meters	242	102	102	106
Coal, million metric tons	261	105	102	101

Some 6.2 million metric tons of coal, 1.7 million metric tons of oil including gas condensate, and 4 billion cubic meters of gas were extracted in excess of the plan.

While fulfilling the April plan for the production of basic types of output, /ferrous metallurgy/ failed to completely make good the lag in the manufacture of steel pipes that was allowed to build up in the first quarter.

	Produced in Jan-Apr 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment		Jan-Apr 1987 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
		Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987	
Steel, million metric tons	53.7	102	100.6	100.5
Rolled ferrous metal products (finished) million metric tons	37.3	102	101	100.9
Steel pipes, million metric tons	6.6	100.5	99.5	102
Iron ore, million metric tons	82.3	102	102	100.6

The January-April targets for production of individual types of highly efficient metal products were not met, in particular good quality cast billets produced by continuous casting machines, electric steel, rolled low-alloy steel products, and high-impact drilling pipes.

/The machine building complex/ achieved 97.6 percent fulfillment of the January-April plan for output sales taking delivery commitments into account; the shortfall of output deliveries against commmitments amounted to R774 million. The output plan was not fulfilled in terms of many types of products, as the following figures show:

	Produced in Jan-Apr 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment		Jan-Apr 1987 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
		Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987	
AC electric motors, million kilowatts	17.9	94	92	96
Metal-cutting machine tools, million rubles	934	100.8	94	98
Industrial robots, thousands	4.8	114	113	99
Instruments, automation equipment, and spare parts, billion rubles	1.6	98	97	101
Computer equipment and spare parts, billion rubles	1.6	108	100	105
Tractors, million horsepower	17.8	94	95	95
Agricultural machinery, billion rubles	1.4	100.5	99.7	103
Grain harvesting combines, thousands	33.8	101	103	84
Machines and equipment for stock raising and feed production, million rubles	928	91	89	96

The fulfillment of plan targets for the manufacture of metal rolling equipment and diesel locomotives by the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, AC electric motors by the USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, feed harvesting combines by the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, excavators by the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, and spinning machines by the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances was not ensured.

/The chemical industry and timber complex/ increased output of mineral fertilizers, chemical fibers and yarns, newsprint, and several other types of products compared with January-April last year. Output of the main types of products is shown by the following figures:

	Produced in Jan-Apr 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment		Jan-Apr 1987 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
		Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987	
Mineral fertilizers (in 100-percent nutrient equivalent), million metric tons	12.1	100.6	102	103
Chemical plant protection agents (in 100-percent active ingredients), thousand metric tons	115	101	100.4	100.8
Chemical fibers and yarns, thousand metric tons	511	100.1	100.4	103
Synthetic resins and plastics, million metric tons	1.8	101	98	100.7
Commercial lumber (excluding minor timber procurements), million trimmed cubic meters	125	106	101	101
Paper, million metric tons	2.1	100.9	99.6	99
of which newsprint, billion square meters	11.9	101	100.4	103

The fulfillment of plan targets for the manufacture of basic types of /construction materials/ is as follows:

	Produced in Jan-Apr 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment		Jan-Apr 1987 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
		Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987	
Cement, million metric tons	44.7	101	100.6	101
Precast ferroconcrete, million cubic meters	39.6	102	100.7	103
Asbestos cement sheet (shingle), billion standard tiles	2.9	100.9	100.6	103
Soft roofing and insulation materials, million square meters	672	100.3	100.3	100
Asbestos, thousand metric tons	730	101	101	104
Window glass, million square meters	87.1	100.6	100	100.4

During the 4-month period 0.3 million metric tons of cement, 19 million standard tiles of asbestos cement sheet, and 10,000 metric tons of asbestos were produced in excess of the plan:

Production of /consumer goods/ is as follows:

	Produced in Jan-Apr 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment		Jan-Apr 1987 as percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
		Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987	
/Foodstuffs/				
Meat (from state raw material resources), million metric tons	3.8	110	109	107
Sausage products, million metric tons	1.2	104	103	104
Edible fish products including canned fish (USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry), million metric tons	2.0	95	99.7	98
Butter (from state raw material resources), thousand metric tons	396	107	112	111
Wholemilk products in milk equivalent (from state raw material resources), million metric tons	10.5	104	105	104
/Goods for cultural, consumer service, and domestic purposes/				
Radio receivers, millions	2.7	101	95	88
Television sets, millions	2.7	94	86	85
Tape recorders, millions	1.5	90	86	93
Refrigerators and freezers, millions	2.0	97	95	97
Washing machines, millions	1.8	95	95	105
Automobiles, thousands	445	100.8	100.4	99.8
Wallpaper, million standard lengths	168	105	101	113
Furniture, billion rubles	2.9	102	100.1	103
/Light industry goods/				
Textiles, all types, billion square meters	4.3	102	100.3	102
Knitted articles, million items	620	100.6	100.2	102
Hosiery, million pairs	686	103	102	102
Footwear, million pairs	282	101	100.2	100.2

/Agro-industrial complex/ sectors fulfilled the plan for production of the most important foodstuffs. Compared with January-April 1986, output growth was 7 percent for meat, 11 percent for butter, 4 percent for wholemilk products, and 54 percent for fruit juices. The manufacture of vodka, liqueurs, and wine made from grapes fell by 17 percent.

The fulfillment of the plan for the manufacture of a range of advanced types of color television sets, two- and three-compartment refrigerators, freezers, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, and food processors was not secured.

The USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household appliances failed to fulfill the output plan for refrigerators, freezers, and washing machines, and the USSR Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry and the USSR Ministry of the Radio Industry failed to fulfill the output plan for radio receivers, television sets, and tape recorders.

/The USSR Ministry of Light Industry/ allowed a lag to build up in the output of cotton and linen textiles, pressure-molded plastic and polyurethane footwear, and a number of children's clothing items: Wool overcoats, cotton frocks, and cotton and mixed-fiber shirts.

Commentary [subhead]

The USSR Central Statistical Administration report makes it clear that, as a result of the measures that have been applied, industry is gradually making good the lag that was allowed to build up at the start of the year: The planned output growth rates were exceeded in April while, in terms of the results of work in the 4 months as a whole, the volume of output increased by 2.8 percent compared with January-April last year. Even so, this is still below the planned level (3.2 percent for January-April). While the overall results for April were positive, several ministries -- and in particular the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, and the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances -- failed to ensure the fulfillment of the months' targets.

The volume of above-plan output in April increased in the fuel and energy, metallurgy, and agro-industrial complexes and the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry. The first quarter's shortfall was made up in terms of the total volume of output by the chemical industry and timber complex.

Industry achieved a certain improvement in contract discipline, but it is still early to talk about any radical change. Machine building workers allowed the build up of the largest lag in performance of contract commitments, with a shortfall of R774 million in their deliveries of output to consumers.

The fuel and energy complex sectors met their plan targets for the extraction and production of the main types of fuel and energy resources. But as a result of shortcomings in work and of difficulties in coal shipments, the output consigned by miners to their consumers was R124 million less than envisaged by contracts.

Plan targets were not met by some individual oil extracting production associations, including "Varyeganeftegaz" and "Azneft." Their shortfalls in deliveries amount to 767,000 metric tons of oil over the 4 months.

The 4-month plan for the production of output by virtually the entire metallurgy cycle was fulfilled. Since the start of the year, however, metallurgy workers have built up a debt of 64,000 meters of steel pipes, with the greatest lag being allowed to build up by the labor collectives of the Sinarskiy Pipe Plant and the Vyksa Metallurgical Plant. Breakdowns in the production of output in the required range have a negative effect on the work of partner-sectors, and still almost every other enterprise under the USSR Ministry of the Ferrous Metallurgy has breached its commitments to consumers.

Serious shortcomings persist in the work of machine builders. Particular concern is caused by the lag in target fulfillment as regards the manufacture of advanced types of machines and equipment. Fewer processing centers and industrial robots than planned were manufactured by enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Machine tool and tool Building Industry, while enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry delivered fewer high-grade lead-acid single-cell plastic storage batteries than planned. Targets for the production of diesel trucks and gas-fuel trucks using compressed and liquefied gas were not fully met.

As was happening previously, in April a smooth balance between the manufacture and delivery of output during the month was not ensured.

CSA RELEASES JAN-APR STOCKRAISING FIGURES

PM221337 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 21, May 87 (Signed to Press 14 May 87) p 10

["Statistical Summary": "Stockraising on Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes"]

[Text] The editorial office has received USSR Central Statistical Administration figures for the state of stockraising on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-April 1987.

Despite the serious difficulties with feeds, most of the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes successfully completed the wintering of livestock and achieved a noticeable increase in the production and sales of meat and milk to the state during the last few months.

I. Production of Livestock Products [subhead]

In January-April this year the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes achieved the following results in the production of livestock products:

Indicators	Jan-Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987 as Percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
Meat production (sale of livestock and poultry for slaughter, live weight), thousand metric tons	6,949	108
of which:		
cattle	4,218	111
pigs	1,754	106
sheep and goats	118	94
poultry	859	103
Gross milk yield, thousand metric tons	23,380	105
Average milk yield per cow, kg	797	105
Hen eggs, millions	19,715	103
Average egg yield of laying hens, units	74	100

Kolkhoz and sovkhoz meat production increased by 529,000 metric tons in comparison with the same period last year. Meat production increased on farms in most union republics with the exception of Moldavia and Estonia.

The greatest increase in meat production in the RSFSR was secured by farms in Ryazan, Voronezh, Volgograd, Saratov, and Ulyanovsk Oblasts, the Kabardino-Balkar and North Osetian ASSR's, and Stavropol Kray. Meat production was allowed to decline on farms in Sverdlovsk Oblast and in the Kalmyk and Yakutsk ASSR's.

The gross milk yield in the first 4 months of 1987 was 1,103,000 metric tons more than in January-April last year. An increase in milk production was secured by stock unit workers in all union republics except Tajikistan. The greatest increase in milk production in the RSFSR was achieved by farms in Kirov and Chita Oblasts, the Buryat and Yakut ASSR's, and Stavropol, Maritime, and Khabarovsk Krays. Milk production declined on farms in Pskov, Kursk, Penza, Kurgan, and Tyumen Oblasts and the North Osetian and Chechen-Ingush ASSR's.

Egg production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in January-April 1987 increased by 501 million compared with the same period last year.

II. Purchases of Livestock Products On All Categories of Farms [subhead]

Types of Product Purchased	Purchased During Jan-Apr 1987	Jan-Apr 1987 as Percentage of Jan-Apr 1986
Livestock and poultry (live weight), thousand metric tons	7,227	111
Milk, thousand metric tons	20,456	107
Eggs, millions	18,977	102

The volume of livestock and poultry sales to the state in the country in January-April 1987 increased by 701,000 metric tons in comparison with the same period last year. There was a decline in sales of livestock and poultry by farms in Estonia, Moldavia, and Armenia.

In the RSFSR livestock and poultry purchases increased considerably on farms in Volgograd, Astrakhan, Voronezh, Saratov, and Ulyanovsk Oblasts, Stavropol Kray, the Bashkir ASSR, and Orenburg and a number of other oblasts. Livestock and poultry purchases declined on farms in the Yakut and Kalmyk ASSR's and in Sverdlovsk Oblast.

Purchases of milk and dairy products increased by 1,423,000 metric tons during January-April 1987. Farms in all union republics except Tajikistan increased milk sales to the state. In the RSFSR milk purchases increased considerably on farms in Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and in Moscow and a number of other oblasts. Milk sales declined on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Tyumen, Rostov, Kurgan, Kursk, and a number of other oblasts and in the Chechen-Ingush ASSR.

Egg sales to the state in January-April 1987 increased by 288 million in comparison with the same period last year.

III. Production and Purchases of Livestock Products by Union Republic [subhead]

Union republic	Jan-Apr 1987 as Percentage of Jan-Apr 1986					
	Production			Purchases		
	Meat	Milk	Eggs	Livestock and Poultry	Milk	Eggs
USSR	108	105	103	111	107	102
RSFSR	110	106	102	113	108	103
of which the non-Chernozem Zone	106	107	102	108	110	103
Ukrainian SSR	106	102	100.3	110	104	96
Belorussian SSR	111	110	104	111	118	104
Uzbek SSR	106	110	110	105	110	107
Kazakh SSR	116	107	105	117	109	105
Georgian SSR	104	102	99	103	106	100.9
Azerbaijan SSR	110	100.1	108	108	103	107
Lithuanian SSR	103	103	108	102	107	111
Moldavian SSR	99	100.3	106	98	104	107
Latvian SSR	106	103	100.8	106	106	102
Kirghiz SSR	121	106	105	131	105	105
Tajik SSR	111	99.6	114	110	99.4	111
Armenian SSR	102	100.3	107	98	103	109
Turkmen SSR	104	102	108	105	103	107
Estonian SSR	96	105	99	97	109	99.6

IV. Livestock Numbers [subhead]

As of 1 May 1987 there were 98.8 million head of cattle on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. There were 29.1 million cows, this being a reduction of 224,000. The pig population reached 59 million, which is an increase of 196,000. Sheep and goats numbered 145.5 million, which is 528,000 fewer than at the same date last year. The number of poultry stood at 818.3 million, which is an increase of 16.3 million.

MEDIA COVERS 19-20 MAY AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD210029 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 19-20 May. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

19 May

Dozens of kilometers of forest have been planted to keep wind and sand off cotton fields in the Khauzhan virgin lands by Turkmenia's forestry workers.

Planting has been in cooperation with the Desert Institute of the Turkmenian Academy of Sciences, which recommended the best trees and bushes for the desert. (0030)

Saratov Oblast: Sowing is now in progress on the 3d and last million hectares. (0400)

Corn sowing today was completed in Northern Ossetiya. (1100)

Altay: The 1st million hectares have been sown to grain, just one-quarter of the grainfields. (1100)

The mass sowing of rape is going on in Tatariya. In Kazan a new factory has been commissioned for producing rape oil. For the time being, it is using rape seed brought from other areas, but from the next harvest it will process homegrown seed. (1100)

Ukraine: This year 500,000 hectares of ploughed land have been set aside for potatoes. (1100)

The vegetable growers of Moldavia are working from dawn to dusk planting tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant in an attempt to make up for lost time. Astrakhan technology (not further identified) is being widely employed, as is the cultivation of these crops in beds in the farms of Cys-Dnestr, where irrigation is widely used. Almost 4,000 hectares of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant are being grown using only vegetable beds. The results will be better if the local engineering firms got the output of machinery sorted out properly. (1100)

Cotton growers of Tajikistan have at last finished sowing cotton. Because of the cold spring, they were obliged to resow a considerable area several times. A competition has been announced in the republic to promote greater mechanization and effective use of machinery. (1330)

20 May

Spring crops have been sown on 500,000 hectares in Kurgan Oblast. Owing to the late spring and frequent rain, arrears have not yet been made good. Less wheat and corn for silage has been sown than usual. Sowing is still selective, because of a high proportion of moisture in some areas. (0200)

In Perm Oblast, grains and pulses have been sown on half the grain area, despite the late spring. (0204)

Harvesting of grain has begun on the Surkhan River in Southern Uzbekistan. Mass harvesting of winter barley is in progress. (0204)

Ryazan Oblast: Sowing of early wheat, barley, oats, and peas, has been completed on an area of almost 500,000 hectares. This is almost 2 weeks later than last year, partly as a result of the late spring, but also because of poor labor organization and equipment use. Consequently, early and late spring crops have been sown at the same time, and this may affect the harvest. (0400)

From Minsk, the head of the agricultural section of the Belorussian Gosagroprom reports that the spring has been late there, and that there is still much to be done in the potato fields. He reminds everyone that Belorussia can boast 15 percent of the Soviet Union's production of potatoes. (1145)

In Belorussia 38,000 hectares are occupied by groats. (1145)

For the first time in the republic, winter and spring rape is to be cultivated on 71,000 hectares. (1145)

Farmers in Turkmenistan have begun harvesting winter grain. The grain area will now be extended to 25,000 hectares. For a republic where the land is mainly used for cotton, this is a considerable increase. (1230)

The late and unsettled spring has compressed the already tight sowing schedule in Aktyubinsk Oblast, Kazakhstan. The mass sowing of wheat began today, following the sowing of barley. The spring crop area here exceeds 2.2 million hectares. About 2 million hectares are occupied by grain crops. (1300)

Aleksandr Ruvinskiy reports that machine operators from state and collective farms achieved maximum turnout in the spring sowing. Up to 5 million hectares per day were sown. Such a pace has previously not been encountered during spring work. Some collectives worked not on a two- but three-shift regime. According to the USSR Central Statistical Directorate, around 73 million hectares were sown by the start of this week. This is half of the spring crops area. The sowing of early grain crops has ended in the south of the central region, in the Penza, Ulyanovsk, and Volgograd Oblasts. The northern boundary of sowing has stretched to the coast of our northern seas. The plants have started looking after cotton, sugar beet, and sunflower seedlings. Potato planting has been significantly delayed this year: only half has been planted so far. The majority of farms that produce marketable potatoes are in zones where spring arrived late. (1500)

BRIEFS

RED BANNER AWARDS -- The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, the Uzbek SSR Council of Trade Unions, and the Uzbek SR Komsomol Central Committee have assessed the outcome of the socialist competition in the republic for upgrading livestock breeding during the first quarter of 1987. They have elected to present Challenge Red Banner awards to the Samarkand, Fergana, and Karshi Oblasts. A number of rayons in the Surkhan Darya, Samarkand, Fergana, and Karshi Oblasts also received Challenge Red Banner awards for their successful work in livestock breeding. [Summary] [Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 1600 GMT 18 May 87 NC]

SOVIET SPACE OFFICIAL DISCUSSES COOPERATION

LD230853 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1517 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Geneva, 22 May (TASS) -- The nonmilitarization of space and implementation of the "Star Peace" program for the benefit of general peace and progress are the main goal of the Soviet Union in its work in space, A.I. Dunayev, head of the USSR's Glavkosmos [Main Administration for Development and Use of Space Technology], has stated here. Yesterday, he delivered a lecture at the Geneva International Research Institute on the Soviet program for peaceful international cooperation in space. The speaker stressed that, immediately after the launch of the first artificial earth satellite, the Soviet Union declared its desire to place scientific and technical achievements at the service of the peaceful needs of mankind and to create conditions for cooperation among states in the study of outer space solely for peaceful purposes. In the lecture, he mentioned concrete examples of such cooperation under the auspices of the "Interkosmos" and "Intersputnik" programs and other agreements of a multi- and bilateral character.

While in Geneva, the Glavkosmos head met representatives of 20 firms and companies from leading Western countries, including the United States, Great Britain, France, the FRG, and Italy. An animated conversation took place on opportunities for the commercial use of Soviet space technology, putting artificial satellites and spacecraft into space with the help of Soviet rocket carriers and accommodating the scientific-technical equipment of other countries on Soviet craft and orbiting stations. The Soviet representative gave the approximate costs and conditions of providing these services which the Western parties to the conversation acknowledged to be entirely acceptable.

At a news conference, A.I. Dunayev noted in addition that the main obstacle to the development of cooperation remains the ban introduced by the United States on exporting technology to the socialist countries since Western space equipment does as a rule contain components of U.S. technology. The removal of this barrier would open the doors to broad development of mutually advantageous and useful contacts as well as to the expansion of access for other countries to the peaceful conquest of space. Questions of expanding cooperation were also raised in the course of numerous meetings between the head of Glavkosmos and the representatives of the Swiss federal authorities, scientific, and business circles.

COSMONAUTS CONTINUE EXPERIMENTS IN MIR COMPLEX

LD221409 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS -- Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are continuing their lengthy flight on board the Mir manned orbital complex.

During the past week the cosmonauts were engaged in servicing the onboard systems of the station and the astrophysics module, carried out a series of observations and filming sessions of the earth's surface and underwent comprehensive medical checksups.

The crew carried out a series of experiments under the programme of studying materials in space with the aim of further perfecting the technology of depositing metal coatings in conditions of space vacuum and weightlessness by the method of electron ray evaporation and subsequent condensation. Several layers of copper were spray deposited on a polymer film.

An experiment involving the evaporation of a "copper-silver" bicomponent alloy was staged in order to get information on the specificities of the evaporation of multicomponent materials in weightlessness.

Today Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are to conduct a new series of geophysical studies and also unload the Progress-30 cargo ship.

According to telemetric data and crew reports the flight of the Mir orbital manned complex is proceeding normally.

ATOMIC ICEBREAKER SIBIR REACHES NORTH POLE

LD260206 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1720 GMT 25 May 87

[Excerpts] North Pole, Aboard the Atomic IceBreaker "Sibir," 25 May (TASS) -- TASS special correspondent Nikolay Konstantinov reports:

The atomic icebreaker Sibir, on a high-altitude scientific voyage in the heavy ice of the Central Polar Basin, today reached the geographical point of the North Pole. This is the second conquest of the white peak of the planet by a surface vessel without escort. [passage omitted]

The USSR state flag has been hoisted on the geographical point of the North Pole, and comprehensive scientific observations of nature have been carried out. A capsule has been lowered onto the ocean bed containing a map with the route 50 years by the first Soviet scientific station Severnyy Polyus and the route of the atomic icebreaker Sibir.

After a short stop at the pole the atomic icebreaker Sibir continued its high-altitude voyage as scheduled.

BRIEFS

STUDIES OF THE BALTIC -- Vilnius May 23 TASS -- A conference that ended today in the capital of Lithuania summed up the results of an international expedition which studied the biological spottiness of the Baltic Sea. Attending it were specialists from the GDR, Poland, the USSR, Finland, the FRG and Sweden. The obtained results show that the "spots" are masses of Baltic water. These spots are rich in biogenic substances on which the productivity of the sea, fish resources depend. They roam about and form certain patterns although the regularities of this phenomenon have not yet been determined. But the first conclusions have been drawn on the influence of underwater currents, changes of water temperature and pressure, chemical, biological and other processes in the life of the sea. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0740 GMT 24 May 87 LD]

TASHKENT PHYSICS CONFERENCE ENDS -- The development program of basic research in the field of low-temperature plasma physics and its practical use in the economy were (?discussed) at the All-Union Physics Conference which has come to an end in Tashkent. Taking part were more than 300 scientists and specialists from Moscow, Leningrad, Novosibirsk, and other of the country's cities and from the Urals and Far Eastern Scientific Centers. It was pointed out that developments linked to the use of low-temperature plasma are at the forefront of new technology and capable of increasing labor productivity many times over in metallurgy and metal working, power engineering and electronics, and other branches of the economy. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2004 GMT 23 May 87 LD]